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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further Reportage on Arab Maghreb Union Summit

Leaders Attend Working Session

LD2307125490 Algiers APS in English 1146 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Algiers, 23/7/90 (APS)—[Algerian] President Chadli Bendjedid, who is also chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), [Libyan] Colonel Muʻammar al-Qadhdhafi, [Tunisian] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, King Hassan II of Morocco and the Mauritanian president, Maaouija Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya held a one hour working session after the opening of the 2nd session work of the UMA Presidential Council. This session was enlarged later to the foreign ministers of the five Maghreb countries.

Summit Agreements Prepared

LD2307145790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Before the conclusion of the Arab Maghreb Union summit, the UMA leaders held a new session of talks in a closed meeting. On line, the radio team from the Palais des Nations:

[Unidentified correspondent] While we are talking to you, preparations are under way to hold the final session. Before this, the foreign ministers will sign five agreements adopted by the Presidential Council. The first agreement is related to the excange of agricultural products, and the document providing guidelines for the common agricultural market. The second agreement is related to agricultural quarantine. Another agreement is related to the encouragement and securing of investments. A fourth agreement is related to double taxation, and setting up rules of mutual cooperation in the field of income tax. The fifth agreement is related to road transportation of people and goods and border crossings.

We have learned that the Presidential Council has adopted the establishment of four institutions, which are:

the Arab Maghreban university;
the Maghreban academy of sciences;
the Maghreban body for cereals and dried legumes;
the Maghreban body for agricultural training and guidance.

The leaders this morning held their second closed session. The first was held last night and was attended by the leaders only.

We have received no information about the contents of the two sessions. It is obvious, however, that the leaders have examined all the draft decisions and agreements raised to the presidential session by the council of ministers. Foremost among these projects was an agreement to establish a permanent headquarters for the UMA General Secretariat, and it is up to the Presidential Council to provide a judgement concerning this issue, of course.

Another ambitious project, which acquires unanimity and interest, consists of establishing a customs union before 1995. This will enable the establishment of a free exchange zone leading to a Maghreban economic community which will ensure economic complementarity and integration. [passage omitted]

While waiting for the beginning of the final session, we point out that after the conclusion of the second session of the UMA Presidential Council, the Algerian foreign minister, Sid Ahmed Ghzali, will hold a press conference during which it is expected that the various aspects in connection with the summit, and even the issues which are not officially announced, will be tackled. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, we point out that the public information institutions have obtained a copy of the final communique. These institutions are the television and news agency. However, the radio did not, despite the fact that it is a public institution too.

We learned from behind the scenes that the headquarters of the General Secretariat will be in Tunis, while the general secretary will be Moroccan. This is what journalists keep repeating among themselves behind the scenes. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Makes Concluding Speech

LD2307134290 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1222 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Concluding speech by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid at Arab Maghreb Union summit at the Club des Pins in Algiers on 23 July—live]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, I am pleased, at a time when we are about to end this session, to express to you our profound thanks and gratitude for the fruitful efforts you have exerted and for the constructive contribution that enlightened our path, facilitated our proceedings, and enabled us to make a deep and fine assessment of the great and important achievements reached during the past period, and to give this start a new impetus through the establishment of the various structures of our union and the employment of the energies, capacities, and ingeniousness of our peoples for the consolidation of a sound base for Maghrebian unity.

During this meeting we have made important achievements. An example is our endorsement of many draft agreements which touch upon vital and fateful aspects for our peoples, such as food security, freedom of the movement of persons and goods, and all the other economic activities. This is considered a great step on the path of our Maghreban march which will undoubtedly have deep and tangible effects which will bring us closer to the noble aim we aspire to achieve, that of the real and effective unity for our peoples and countries. [passage omitted]

Maghreb Summit Communique Issued

LD2307160590 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Palais des Nations-Algiers, 23 Jul (APS)—The second session of the Arab Maghreb Union Presidential Council endorsed at its final session today—Monday—a final communique, in which it notes that more efforts should be exerted to speed up Maghrebian integration.

The council calls on the ministers of foreign affairs, finances, and agriculture to determine a joint strategy of development. In this context, the Presidential Council also stresses the importance of establishing a common market between the Arab Maghreb countries based upon principles to be determined within the framework of a customs union. The aim of this strategy, the document stresses, is to reach a real customs union before 1995, agreements concerning the free movement of agricultural products, to encourage and guarantee investments, to avoid dual taxation, and to establish a Maghrebian aviation company. The final communique indicates that it has been decided to set up many joint companies, a Maghrebian university, a Maghrebian Academy, etc. As for the prerogatives of the UMA General Secretariat, the final communique says that decisions will be made in order to determine its functions and to appoint its secretary general.

On the political side, the final communique stresses the necessity of consultations and coordination in this sphere by assessing the new events in the international arena and their effects on Arab issues.

In this context, the document hails the atmosphere of detente prevailing in the world which encourages the consolidation of international peace and security on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and independence of all countries.

The final communique stresses its rejection of the policy of threats and of resorting to the use of force against any country, and considers them a threat to the security of the Arab world as a whole.

Concerning the recent developments in the Arab arena, the summit blesses the Yemeni unity, and considers it a firm stone in the edifice of comprehensive Arab unity.

Concerning the Palestinian cause, the document stresses its complete solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people, and calls for providing moral, material, and diplomatic support to the Intifadah.

The communique also stresses the solidarity of the Arab world with the PLO conditions for resuming the dialogue with the United States.

On the Lebanese conflict, the communique calls for material, moral, and political support for the legitimate government for the sake of rebuilding Lebanon.

On the other hand, the document expresses the deep concern of the Arab countries over the emerging dispute between Kuwait, Iraq, and the UAE. The document warns against the negative reflections that might stem from this dispute, and appeals for self-restraint in order to avoid a crisis; for solving the disputes through dialogue, understanding, and constructive fraternal spirit; and to avoid anything that may increase tension.

As a contribution from the UMA toward easing the tension, the UMA Presidential Council has decided to entrust President Chadli Bendjedid with sending a special UMA envoy to the concerned brothers.

As for the Iraq-Iran conflict, the communique expresses its satisfaction with the signs of detente between the two countries, and praises the recent meeting between their foreign ministers.

Algeria's Ghazali Comments

LD2407005890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] For the most important points of the summit's final communique and resolution, and the news conference held by Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali after the summit, here is a report by the national radio's mission at the Palais des Nations. [passage omitted]

The presidential council also endorsed the recommendations made by the foreign ministers' council concerning implementation plans. However, the issue of the location of the permanent headquarters of the union's general secretariat, and that of the secretary general remained undecided. The issue was the press' focus of attention and it emerged at the news conference held by the foreign minister and current chairman of the union's ministerial council, Sid Ahmed Ghazali, after the conclusion of the summit's work. Here is a recording of Ghazali's clarifications:

[Begin Ghazali recording] All the countries were prepared [to host the headquarters]. Perhaps it could be said that a stronger desire was expressed by three countries; Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Other than official statements, there are sensitive and emotive issues which may have been discussed by the union's leaders, but have not been officially made public. The news conference held by the Algerian foreign minister after the conclusion of the session provided journalists with the opportunity to raise these issues. Among the questions asked by journalists was one on political changes in Algeria, or the issue the Western media has called "the increasing religious extremism in Algeria." The Algerian minister denounced the way the foreign press has presented the situation in Algeria. He said: [Begin Ghazali recording] Those who talk about religious extremism and the increasing religious extremism are a group of media bodies abroad [words indistinct]. I cannot say that religious extremism (?does not) exist in Algeria; it has always existed in Algeria and the Maghreb. However, when we talk about increasing religious extremism, I cannot see any justification for this unless those [media] bodies believe the existence of a religious party means religious extremism [words indistinct] because there is a trend, especially in Europe, which is trying to [word indistinct] and to present a new concept, namely that Islam is extremism. No, we are Muslims, but we are not extremists. We are Muslims. There is no increase or anything new in this issue. As for the political sphere, the experience differs from one country to another. In the constitutional and [word indistinct] spheres, the experiences differ. There may be belief in a particular direction and there may be another belief. We will have to let practice decide the validity of each belief. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mr. Ghazali's news conference lasted over an hour and dealt with many issues, including regional conflicts. Regarding the conflict in the Western Sahara, Ghazali said: [Begin Ghazali recording] Regarding the Western Sahara problem, you are aware of the phase we are in, of Morocco's and Algeria's position, and that of the Saharans. We are all in agreement on giving priority to creating circumstances that will facilitate the holding of a free referendum, and consequently, the provision of strong support for the work carried out by the United Nations under the auspices of Perez de Cuellar and [words indistinct] [end recording].

Finally, we will make some remarks confined to media coverage. Media presence was large, but journalistic work was not at all easy. The summit did not appoint an official spokesman. Consequently, the flow of useful information was lacking, except for some snippets leaked by members of delegations or by some journalists who had come with their delegations and were given special passes which allowed them to gain entrance and to be free from the restrictive atmosphere of the press center.

In the context of information, we would like to point out that institutions of a public nature have obtained copies of the final communique: APS and [Algerian] television. The national radio was deprived, although it is a public institution as well and it is renowned for its immediate and speedy coverage of events.

Ladies and gentlemen, this was the radio missions' report from the Palais des Nations on the most important points of the Maghreban summit's final communique and resolutions, and on the news conference held by the Algerian foreign minister, Sid Ahmed Ghazali.

Agreement Reached on Joint Arab Grain Production

JN2007164990 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
19 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, has stated that Egypt, Syria, Libya, and Sudan have agreed to establish the Arab Corporation for Grain Production in the form of a holding company incorporating three companies for the production of grains, edible oil crops, and sugar-producing crops, with the goal of attaining self-sufficiency from these crops in the four states. Special studies in the three companies will be presented to the four states' agriculture ministers in their 1 August meeting in Cairo.

The corporation will adopt a regional plan to produce grain, and will discuss fund allocation in a manner beneficial to the member states. The four countries' plans will be drawn up in a coordinated manner.

Dr. Wali said that a portion of natural and economic resources will be devoted to producing grain with the goal of self-sufficiency. As for oil crops, the corporation's programs will be developed with the aim of integration in terms of the four countries' various resources through joint production projects that will ensure the coordination of production elements in terms of natural, financial, and manpower resources. Eliminating shortages in edible oil will be explored by increasing local production of high-yielding edible oil-producing crops, such as sunflower and soya beans, and by conducting research to develop new kinds of high-yielding varieties of edible oil crops.

Mubarak on Efforts To Contain Gulf Dispute

NC2407092890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0841 GMT
24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has stated that the tour he began today with a visit to Iraq and which will also take him to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, is intended to contain the crisis which emerged between Iraq and both Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. He expressed the hope that his efforts will result in clearing the Arab atmosphere and uniting Arab ranks.

He hopes also that his good offices will bring Iraq and Kuwait together in the presence of Egypt and any other Arab state, which might be Saudi Arabia. Speaking to the Egyptian reporters accompanying him on his tour, the president said this quadripartite meeting will probably be held first among the foreign ministers, then upgraded to one among for the leaders.

In this context, the president underlined Egypt's leading role and credibility in the Arab world, as well as its acceptability to the parties to the dispute.

President Mubarak received a telephone call on the subject from the Saudi monarch yesterday.

On Egypt's negotiations with the IMF, President Mubarak said that contacts are still under way and that an IMF delegation will arrive in Cairo soon to draw up the final agreement between Egypt and the fund.

In this context, the president underlined the importance of economic reform in Egypt, saying that it is unavoidable. He stressed, however, that this reform should be done gradually.

Commenting on U.S.-Palestinian differences, particularly over the suspension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue, the president said Egypt is not demanding the PLO take any particular measure. All we are saying to them is: You yourselves have to find a solution for this problem with the United States, Mubarak said.

On the new election law, President Mubarak pointed out that experts are currently working on that matter. He said the next People's Assembly elections will be held according to the individual system in accordance with the Constitution in order to avoid any future disputes.

The president stressed that a public referendum should be held over the dissolution of the People's Assembly because neither the constitutional court's ruling nor the Constitution stipulate the Assembly's dissolution. The president pointed out that the Higher Constitutional Court is not authorized to rule that the Assembly be dissolved, because this would imply an encroachment on the authority of other institutions.

The president added that the president of the republic's decision to dissolve the Assembly will be made after the public referendum has decided whether or not to dissolve the Assembly because the people are the source and creators of all authority.

Al-Asad, Saddam To Attend Cairo Summit

JN2307174290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Jul 90 p 1

[By Hadayat 'Abd-al-Nabi and Hasan 'Ashur]

[Excerpts] Alexandria—In two private sessions, Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad have discussed Arab issues and a number of plans related to bolstering relations between the two countries. They also discussed the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, and the situation in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Answering a question by AL-AHRAM, Usamah al-Baz, the Foreign Ministry's first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will be among the first Arab presidents to attend the next Arab summit in Cairo in November, and that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will also attend that summit. [passage omitted]

USSR's Tarasov's Middle East Tour Previewed

LD2407085890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0813 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow, July 24 (KUNA)—Assistant Soviet Foreign Minister for Middle East Affairs Gennadiy Tarasov's coming tour to the Middle East will include Egypt, Syria and Jordan, Soviet sources said here Tuesday.

The sources told KUNA that Tarasov's talks with Arab officials will deal with means of solving Arab-Israeli conflict, latest developments in the region and issues related to the Soviet Jews massive migration to the occupied Arab lands. He will also brief Arab officials on the results of his recent talks in the United States.

Political observers here related Tarasov's visit to Middle East with the Soviet proposal of a summit for Arab front line countries to draw a policy on who, [as received] to deal with the Israeli colonialist policy in the occupied Arab lands and with the Israeli right-wing government.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends Cable to Israel's Mi'ari

JN2107181690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, yesterday sent a cable of solidarity to brother Muhammad Mi'ari, secretary general of the [Israeli opposition party] Progressive List for Peace, on the occasion of the movement's congress, which began its work in the occupied homeland the day before yesterday. In the cable, 'Arafat wished the congress success in favor of a just peace in the region.

In his cable, the brother president stressed the desire and determination of the PLO and the Palestinian people to achieve a peace that restores their national rights—foremost of which are their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

Concluding his cable, he expressed his confidence in the movement's ability to contribute to achieving a just solution to the Palestine question.

PLFP Connection With Border Incident Denied

JN2307183790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] 'Azmi al-Khawaja, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Political Bureau member, denied in Amman today that the PFLP had any connection with the infiltration attempt at the Jordanian-Syrian border last Saturday night.

Al-Khawaja denounced what Israeli radio had claimed and what some news agencies had repeated—that the infiltrators who were killed by the Jordanian Army belonged to the PFLP. Al-Khawaja asserted that such reports are baseless.

PLO Radio Urges Arab Defense Council Meeting

JN2207083390 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jul 90

["Reading of the Political Situation" feature entitled "The Need To Convene the Collective Arab Defense Council"]

[Text] Brothers: Daily evidence confirms that there is no alternative to collective Arab action and that anyone who seeks to fragment Arab efforts will be the first to pay the price and will be the first loser. We, the Palestinians, do not need the testimony of anyone to confirm our great concern for Arab solidarity and unified Arab policy toward all Arab causes, especially the Palestine question. We believe that unity and solidarity are the only way to realize Arab aims. Within this context, we say that the Baghdad summit resolutions have called for the formation of the Collective Arab Defense Council to discuss any new issues and aggressions against the nation and its future.

Surfacing now are these explosions and threats which harm the nation's present and future and which are not confined to this or that party or this or that issue. The Jewish emigration and Zionist expansionist schemes are a direct threat to the Arab nation's present and future. Such a threat is also posed by any bilateral Arab differences or any aggression by one Arab party against another, as every one of these issues is directly linked to pan-Arab security. Therefore, they should be addressed in the fora of Arab unity institutions and then the summit institution, or the institutions set up by the nation. The Collective Arab Defense Council is one of these institutions that should be convened if necessary. Pan-Arab security requires convening the Collective Arab Defense Council to define the practical course of collective Arab defense of common Arab causes and joint pan-Arab security.

Casualties Reported in Israeli Shelling of Jarju'

JN2007195690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1841 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text of military communique issued by the PLO; place and date not given]

[Text] At a time when our forces were occupying positions to disengage Amal Movement fighters and Hizballah militiamen in Iqlim al-Tuffah to halt the fighting, end the bloodshed among brothers, and to deny the Zionist enemy the chance to perpetrate repeated aggressions against our kinfolk in southern Lebanon—Lebanese and Palestinians alike—and at a time when our fighters managed to ease clashes between the two groups there, the Zionist enemy at 0730 today, (?19) July 1990, launched a new attack on our forces, which were deployed in the Jarju' area and its environs to disengage warring troops there using long-range artillery. The enemy shelling continued until 0830. At the same time, Israeli warplanes were conducting intensive flights over the area. We lost two martyrs, and five of our combatants were slightly wounded as a result of the enemy shelling. It is revolution until victory.

Egypt

Further on Visits by King Husayn, Iraq's 'Aziz

Husayn Receives 'Aziz

JN2307115490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1142 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (INA)—This afternoon in Alexandria, Jordan's King Husayn received Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and envoy of President Saddam Husayn. The meeting was attended by Iraqi Ambassador in Cairo Nabil Najm.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Cairo, Tariq 'Aziz said he conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to King Husayn of Jordan. The message, he said, deals with relations between the two fraternal countries and the new developments in the region.

Mubarak, Husayn, 'Aziz Meet

NC2307115290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan met in a closed meeting at Qasr al-Tin Palace in Alexandria today. The two leaders reviewed the present Arab situation, particularly the current developments in the Gulf region and ways to settle the disputes and unite the Arab ranks. They also discussed ways to give an impetus to the Middle East peace process.

Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, joined the two leaders later.

In another development, King Husayn of Jordan has met with Tariq 'Aziz. The meeting was attended by Iraqi ambassador in Cairo Nabil Najm.

President Mubarak hosted a luncheon for King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him. It was attended by Tariq 'Aziz.

Delegations Meet; 'Aziz Joins In

NC2307122290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1209 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Alexandria, 23 Jul (MENA)—This afternoon the Egyptians and Jordanians held a round of talks attended by members of the two delegations.

The Egyptian delegation was led by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and the Jordanians by Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, then joined the meeting.

News Conference Held

NC2307161090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1410 GMT 23 Jul 90

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan with unidentified correspondents in Alexandria on 23 July—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. President: Again it has been said that there is an Egyptian initiative to clear the Arab atmosphere, and above all, as a first step, to halt the propaganda and information campaigns between the two countries [Iraq and Kuwait].

[Mubarak] We have not yet announced any initiative or anything else. I have heard about such initiatives from London and from you. It is good that you are thinking on behalf of the Arab cause. This is a good gesture to facilitate meetings among our Arab brothers. In general, I take this opportunity to welcome my brother His Majesty King Husayn to Alexandria. On this occasion we also have brother Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz with us. I would like to say that Iraq and Kuwait are two Arab countries that have a common border. I am confident that the so-called problem can be solved very easily. I am confident that the two countries will arrive at a comfortable and quiet solution, and that there is no need for all this fanfare by the world news media.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: During your meeting with President Mubarak was agreement reached on any particular methods of containing this crisis?

[King Husayn] My meeting with my brother the president once again gave me the opportunity to resume the frank and fraternal talks that we have had at all our previous meetings. Naturally, we reviewed all matters and issues. His excellency the president was kind enough to answer the question submitted to him in this connection. We are confident that everything will be in the interest of the Arab nation and that understanding will be achieved among all brothers in the confrontation of all challenges and dangers.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty: The Egyptian, Jordanian, Iraqi, and Yemeni people rejoiced at the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. Have all the ACC clauses been achieved?

[King Husayn] I believe we are still at the beginning of the road. In the first year a great deal was done in terms of laying down the rules, bases, and principles. Thanks to the efforts of my brother President Saddam Husayn and my brothers in Iraq it was a year of specifying the landmarks along the road and concluding various agreements. We have now started the phase of implementation. We feel we are still at the beginning of the road. We hope we will achieve success so that every Arab citizen of the ACC states will feel and bless the great positive results that are in our conscience and mind and so that these results will be in the interest of our Arab nation throughout the great homeland.

[Correspondent] Between you and President Mubarak there is a continuing dialogue and ongoing consultations and coordination. I have the feeling that this quick visit and this meeting is of a special character? Am I wrong?

[King Husayn] This meeting is one of many meetings that we hold every now and then. Naturally, our circumstances in the Arab world, a part of the world where there have been rapid developments, dictate that we intensify such meetings. Thank God, as you have just said, we think together and work together in the performance of our duty in the Arab world, together with our brothers in the ACC and the Arab nation as a whole. A part of this duty is that we should watch world events and deal with these developments accordingly.

King Husayn Concludes Visit

NC2307153390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1502 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Alexandria, 23 Jul (MENA)—Jordanian King Ibn-Talal Husayn and the delegation accompanying him left Alexandria's al-Nuzhah Airport this afternoon following a five-hour visit to Egypt.

President Mubarak led the delegation which saw him off at the airport. Also present at the farewell ceremony were Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Counselor al-Sayyid al-Jawsaqi, governor of Alexandria; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id 'Abd-al-Fattah, president of Alexandria University; Lieutenant General Muhammad Sharif al-Sadiq, commander of the Egyptian Navy; and Major General Salih Ibrahim al-Hadidi, commander of the northern military district.

President Mubarak and King Husayn embraced at the steps of the plane before the Jordanian monarch departed. President Mubarak had earlier accompanied King Husayn from Ra's al-Tin Palace to al-Nuzhah Airport at the conclusion of their talks and joint news conference this afternoon.

Large numbers of Alexandria's citizens lined the city's corniche and main thoroughfares to salute the two distinguished Arab leaders.

Iraq's 'Aziz Departs

NC2307152490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1503 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Alexandria, 23 Jul (MENA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Alexandria this afternoon following a two-day visit to Egypt. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, saw 'Aziz off at al-Nuzhah Airport in Alexandria.

Paper Outlines Syrian-Egyptian Joint Statements

JN2307182690 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Jul 90 p 1

[By Muhammad 'Abd-al-Majid]

[Excerpt] Following the final round of talks yesterday morning between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad, the two leaders signed a bilateral agreement stipulating that they meet regularly or whenever the need arises in their capacity as top political leaders in the two sisterly states.

The agreement calls for regular meetings to be held between the presidents to compare notes on political issues of mutual interest and to evaluate the progress of the higher joint ministerial committee headed by the two countries' prime ministers in line with the agreement regulating its work.

The pact illustrates the eagerness of the two countries to give impetus to common Arab action and propel bilateral relations forward.

Also signed yesterday were the minutes of the meetings held between the two countries' delegations during the three-day visit to Egypt by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Signing for Egypt was Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, and for Syria Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

The minutes draw up the frameworks and programs of cooperation in all areas and set the dates for meetings by experts and officials. The minutes also provide for the formation of ministerial committees in various work sectors, including the economy, trade, agriculture and industry, construction, transport, communications, culture, education, information, health, and pharmaceutical industries.

The minutes of the meetings further set the goals and outline the key points for joint action by the two countries. [passage omitted]

Velayati To Visit; Al-Asad Efforts Cited

NC2407071990 Cairo MENA in English 0655 GMT 24 Jul 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR learnt that Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will visit Cairo next week for talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. He will meet with President Mubarak.

AL-AKHBAR gave prominence to a report by the British newspaper INDEPENDENT on the imminent resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Iran. This move will take place sooner than was expected, due to the mediation of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Mubarak Also To Visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

NC2407075890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0752 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (MENA)—MENA has learned that President Mubarak will visit Kuwait and Saudi Arabia following his visit to Iraq.

Radio, Television Official Cited on Arabsat

NC2007132090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1009 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Engineer Fathi al-Bayyumi, chairman of the board of trustees of the Radio and Television Union, has said that the Arab region is not targeted by direct transmissions and that there are no so-called direct transmission satellites in the region at present, nor will they appear in the near future. [passage omitted]

He explained that Arabsat's wide-band transponder is merely a booster. It can produce a strong signal in the targeted region which can be picked up by small dishes with diameters ranging between two and three meters.

He said two Arabsat satellites currently cover the Arab region. The first is called 1A and the second 1B. One of them works as a substitute for the other, and both of them have wide-band transponders. He said that Egypt has hired one of them, the 1A satellite.

He pointed out that the third Arabsat, one of Arabsat's first generation satellites, the lifespan of which is seven years, will be launched in a few weeks time. This satellite will contribute to prolonging the lifespan of the first generation because it will back up the other two satellites.

Eng. al-Bayyumi noted that preparations are under way to launch other satellites of various designs to fulfill the Arab countries' requirements. They are called the second generation of Arabsat, he said.

Mubarak Delivers 23 Jul Revolution Speech

NC2207130090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0708 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the National Democratic Party Central Committee Hall in Cairo on the 38th anniversary of 23 July 1952 revolution—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Brother citizens, it is a good omen that God has blessed our meeting, at which we celebrate a glorious national occasion, by making it coincide this year with a memorable Islamic and historical occasion—the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's hegira [flight from Mecca]. The success of the hegira was essential to the success of the Muhammadan call and the formation of the Islamic state, a development that changed the course of human history. The success of hegira brought enlightment and banished darkness, and it brought unity and banished divisions, atheism, and infighting. With hegira, the history of man took a turn toward civilization and freedom and rid itself of barbarism and backwardness. The values of truth, justice, equality, and freedom flourished after the hegira, and those of injustice, discrimination, and slavery faded away.

Congratulations on this memorable occasion to our Egyptian family, to our Arab people, and to all our brothers, the sons of Islamic nations. We implore God Almighty to make the new hegira year a new beginning of a new era in which the banners of truth will fly high and in which all the aspirations for a free and dignified life will be realized. We look forward to a life in which everyone cultivates the principles of goodness, justice, love, and peace; reaps the fruits of security, safety, and stability; and enjoys the resulting prosperity and progress.

I make an earnest call to all the brothers in our Arab world to be fully aware of the challenges facing them, of the changes that are happening in the world around us, and of the responsibilities that they have to face accordingly. "Verily never will God change the condition of a people until they change it themselves (with their own souls.)" [Koranic verse] "God will certainly aid those who aid His (cause); for verily God is full of strength, exalted in might (able to enforce his will.)" [Koranic verse]

Brother citizens, our celebration today of the 38th anniversary of the 23 July revolution is a celebration of sublime and lofty principles which still deserve to be our rallying point. We should recall the events that shaped, positively or negatively, the course of the revolution, and learn the lessons that can bring us back to the right path, the path of truth, justice, and respect for human dignity.

The first principle upheld by the 23 July revolution is national commitment; commitment to the homeland that gave us much and expects our best in return; commitment to the society which long suffered from external exploitation and internal injustice and whose sons have the right for a dignified life, free from fear and deprivation, and established on a firm foundation of noble values and principles; commitment to the values and virtues of religion through cleansing one's words and deeds, through cooperating during good times as during hard times, through charity and piety, and through the creation of a cohesive society capable of weathering the storms and overcoming the crises.

Without this sense of commitment to the homeland, the 23 July revolution would not have been able to create a new society, a society that bans exploitation, safeguards the rights of the weak and the oppressed, treats citizens equally, provides education for rich and poor alike, creates equality of opportunity, and restores to the majority the rights that they had been unjustly denied. This was one of the greatest and most difficult battles of the 23 July revolution.

For this reason, the revolution's history was one of tough and endless challenges. The revolution had to face these challenges and resorted, therefore, to many extraordinary measures. This was the case until the situation became more stable and the revolutionary legitimacy was duly replaced by constitutional legitimacy. We thus entered the era of political democracy without neglecting social democracy. We began reconstructing the state on sound bases by allowing the people every opportunity to participate in the making and implementation of decisions. This peaceful transformation led to a correction of the revolutionary path in accordance with the free will of the people and without bloody clashes. Allow me to repeat this: without bloody clashes.

We have set a wonderful example to the Third World countries and even made an impression on countries with a long history of democracy. The people's aspirations took shape in a new system in which the public is consulted, freedom of speech is respected, and clashes of opinion take place in the open. There are no obstacles that prevent any opinion from being expressed in the legitimate channels endorsed by the people, for the people have made these channels available for this very purpose.

The battle has been long. It has lasted for the past 38 years. Those who have lived through it are mature people now and they have a duty to discuss its course in complete candor with the younger generation, who are not aware of all its details. All citizens, particularly the young people, should arm themselves with the knowlege of the true history of our people's struggle for a life of dignity and freedom. The true history, that is what I am saying, dear brothers. Allow me to repeat that: the true history. For this is the tribute we owe to a people who have never forfeited their dignity and to the meaning of our national struggle as exemplified in every one of our fateful battles. Knowledge of this history is necessary to instill in our sons the same values of commitment which their fathers have demonstrated.

Our contemporary history is full of shining examples of national commitment. Among these is the termination of the corrupt monarchy and the establishment of the republic; the destruction of feudalism and the distribution of the land among the poor and the oppressed; the proclamation of workers rights and the protection of workers from unjust treatment; the expansion of the social security system to cover millions of people; the nationalization of the Suez Canal; the construction of the High Dam; the positive contribution to the revolutions and liberation movements in Africa and the Third World; and the formation of the Nonaligned Movement.

We have also been involved in three ferocious wars. In October 1973, the most recent of these wars, we achieved a victory that was considered a military feat by friend and foe alike. We have achieved the impossible dream of peace. We have liberated every inch of the homeland from foreign presence.

Good relations have been established with the Arab states and with all the countries of the world, irrespective of their regimes. Egypt has again been able to assume its pioneering role in the international arena. It has again occupied its effective place in the decisionmaking bodies of the world. This, brothers and sisters, was all accompanied by a colossal struggle to rebuild the economy in which all the forces of the people participated and which took place after the production situation deteriorated to a dangerous point. Gigantic wheels began to spin everywhere to salvage collapsing factories, establish new industries, produce energy, build roads, and create all the means of communication. The symbol "Made in Egypt" appeared everywhere. Many of our products invaded numerous foreign markets. We were able, which is rare among Third World countries, to stand on solid ground after being on the verge of submerging in soft sand. This has won the appreciation and respect of all the international institutions which are cooperating with us in the effort to correct the economic course.

All this did not emerge from a vacuum. It was not the result of mere slogans or speeches full of magic words. It was not done by disregarding the people's right to know all the facts stripped of fabricated glossy covers. It was the result of organized, scientific planning and a conscious will that does not seek excuses for retreat, failure, or inability to fulfill national responsibilities. All the building measures which have been implemented since the 23 July 1952 revolution had their objective circumstances, whether these were a hindrance or an encouragement. We should present them to our successive generations in a fair and honest manner. Therefore, I urge writers and thinkers to judge and describe these measures without prejudice and without any idea of settling accounts. They must remember that, throughout our long history, our people have been a dynamic, positive force. They must remember that through the revolution the rule of Egypt was transferred to the people of Egypt. The government was led by people who made great sacrifices and a great contribution and were known for their patriotism and purity of purpose. In the human struggle for liberation, all leaders in history faced the test of trial and error. They achieved victories and faced defeats. But recording history does not mean we must dirty the white garment, defame any decision, or make haphazard accusations. All this will eventually affect us and affect the reputation of our people and our country.

I do not demand that anyone should deceptively surround heads with halos of glorification. I also do not demand that anyone should falsely defend erroneous decisions. I do say that it is the right of the generations to know true history. It is not in anyone's interest to distort minds with exaggerations and contradictions or to stab our national dignity with poisonous lances. [applause]

Brother citizens: The revolution is not a set of unchanging molds. It has no priestly slogans that are imposed on the minds to cause thinking to stagnate. It is not the deification of an individual, in which any discussion of his individual decision is considered apostasy. The revolution is not merely a transfer of power from one group to another, or from one individual to another. The revolution is the building of a new society that nurtures human rights. It is the society of the best and the most just. The people are sovereign. Sovereignty is for the people's rights, and when a decision is made, this is done by the inspiration of the will of millions of people and in response to their needs and rights. Hence, freedom of expression is the safety valve against deviation into worshipping the individual, straying into minority rule, or granting privileges to the ruling few.

Should the circumstances of the revolutionary trend require that this freedom be suspended or monopolized by those leading the country's development, then the situation should be restored to normal to achieve stability and safeguard decisionmaking from individual control and a single unopposed opinion. We thank God that revolutionary development in Egypt has led the country to a natural society—a society of consultation and pluralism, a society fit for human beings who are born free to enjoy liberty and respect the liberty of others.

Let us look at the current developments in a large part of the world, where new rules of government and political and social systems are being laid down following a long period of repression, imprisonment within unchanging molds, and the control of the majority by the minority. If we follow these radical changes, still in their initial stages, we will not exaggerate if we take pride in the Egyptian experience, treat our contemporary history with fairness, and declare, without bias to ourselves, that we were ahead of others in understanding the facts of this era and in guiding the winds of change before they blew us away. We were also ahead in moving rapidly and boldly to the arena of democracy—an arena of values and principles that cause human free will to glow and shine so that it may build, enlighten, open closed doors, welcome the light, and breathe fresh air.

We thank God that we have leaped into the democratic arena with long, confident, and unhasty steps. Building has gone ahead on a firm and strong basis. We have developed our experience of democracy. Democracy now affects all aspects of our political, social, and economic life. The voices which wanted to freeze our views in the molds of left and right have disappeared. Our democratic life was manifested in its total respect for the supremacy of the law. This in itself prompts us to defend democracy. There is no objection to criticism that demands more. This is the nature of development and life. But we object to criticism which distorts what exists, disavows what is a fact, and throws mud at the beautiful edifice. If freedom of expression permits speech by all, our responsibility to defend freedom demands that we be true in what we say, honest in expressing our views, and sincere in our intentions.

Our abiding principle is that there will be no restriction on views—I repeat, no restriction on views—no constraint on ideas—I repeat, no constraint on ideas—and no ban on ideology. Public opinion will issue its judgement, make a distinction between the good and bad, and arrive at its decision.

There is no need for me to repeat the old democratic principle that a minority cannot dominate a majority and a majority cannot impose its views on a minority—although the majority has the power to make decisions. The people ultimately have the final word. They choose the deputies who represent them in the exercise of their democratic authority.

The coming elections for the People's Assembly currently constitute the topic of discussion. I want to assure everyone that it is not the state's policy to interfere directly or indirectly in the elections or influence the free will of the voters. Brothers, spare us the verbal onslaughts. We do not want them to characterize interparty dialogue. We do not want one-upmanship, the fanning of flames, or warnings of fires which do not exist except in the minds of those who see an advantage in a fire. A study is currently being undertaken with complete objectivity and positiveness to make the election law a sound tool for the sound exercise of democracy. We are not trying to mislead anyone with slogans and words. The honest word is our way. Our firm belief is that free will will defend the free society, that the voice of the people is the voice of truth and justice, and that our democratic life rests upon the foundation of free expression which can be realized either by free speech or casting votes in elections.

The departments and official institutions of the state shoulder a fundamental responsibility in guaranteeing the sound process of elections and protecting it against mishandling and violations. Every citizen, however, shoulders similar responsibility in participating in this process on a basis which ensures the achievement of the desired goals, which are considered national goals linked to the supreme interest of the country. In order for the election process to take place within this framework, it is necessary to ensure broad popular participation so that the people's desire is truly expressed. By participating in the election process, every citizen fulfills his national duty and participates in the government. In so doing he does not just content himself with talking about his rights and duties, or satisfy himself with taking the position of a spectator whose role is limited to expressing admiration or surprise.

In this connection, participation must be based on correct principles, in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution and the law. This requires that all voters and candidates should ensure that the election process is honest—without coercion, fraudulence, vote-buying, encouragement of dishonest practices, or shameful mob acts. There must be an absolute commitment to legitimate procedures, to both the letter and the spirit. While parliamentary elections are a legitimate arena for competition among the diverse political parties and groupings, they should not turn into a scene of infighting and bickering or a market for one-upmanship and profiteering. These elections must offer an objective comparison between platforms and opinions and a way to choose competent citizens who are able to represent the voters; sincerely and honestly express their stands and hopes; and remain committed to their interests, which are an integral part of the supreme national interest.

After the people deliver their verdict, we must all acknowledge that their decision is final and does not permit any doubts or obstinacy. There must be an absolute acceptance of the people's verdict, compliance with their will, and an unquestionable assumption that all those chosen by the enlightened masses to represent and speak for them are Egyptians who have accepted the responsibility of national action, regardless of their ideological affiliations or party loyalties. Egypt is above everyone. All of us are dedicated to its service. [applause]

It remains to be said that talk about election campaigns will not overshadow discussion of the production effort. The final objective of every democratic system is to achieve a dignified and just life for the citizens. The sole way to attain this primary and lofty objective is to provide resources. There can be no resources without production that satisfies consumption demands and increases the revenue which is then reinvested in further production endeavors.

Yes. Increasing production remains the primary battle. I do not think anyone would question that we have done our utmost and continue to make the greatest efforts to eliminate obstacles to further production, both by providing an encouraging climate for investment and by facilitating export procedures. This is accompanied by all the measures that are being taken to rectify the economic course. The exhibition of Egyptian products in Moscow was a splendid example of the huge, qualitative leap achieved by various Egyptian products. It was an encouraging beginning on the arduous and long path.

I tell all Egyptian capitalists abroad that their country is worthy of the fruit of their labor and their land is calling them to come and participate. There is no need to make excuses to justify their passivity at a time when Egypt is confronting its greatest challenge. It is opening its arms to its sons to whom it has given much. It remains for them to give in return.

Egyptian industries and investments which are operating successfully are definite proof that opportunities for work are available for all those who want to work. When intentions are sincere, there is no problem that cannot be solved.

Before I move on to the next topic, I would like to explain to my brothers and sisters what I have in my mind and what I heard over a long period of time before I came to deliver this speech. I met with certain brother citizens and writers. They repeatedly said: Mr. President, we need a great national project around which the people may rally, something like the High Dam. I am absolutely not casting doubt on the High Dam. It is a great national project that benefited us immensely. Had it not been for this project, we would have encountered many disasters, such as floods or drought. However, I would like to tell those brothers who spoke of great national projects that, since I came to power, there have indeed been great national projects that cost billions of pounds. I will give some examples so that they may not forget. Certain people ask me why we do not do this or that, although these projects are under way. When I mention these projects, they say that they have not heard about them. What can I do? Television and radio feature these projects and newspapers highlight them. Let me remind you so that you do not forget.

In the recent past, great national projects—[Mubarak changes thought] you know that previously we did not have any infrastructure or anything. This is not a shortcoming of the revolutionary era. We lacked infrastructure before the revolution and for certain reasons during and after the revolution, such as wars and so on—and until the October war when we began to wake up and see how to build our country and carry on. I faced huge problems, which I have previously mentioned. Had there been any concern for infrastructure in the 1940's, or back in 1906 and 1910, the money we are spending now would have been spent on development and we would have had great prosperity and development. No country in the region would have had the same standard of development. Do you know how much we have spent on investment on infrastructure since the middle of 1981 or the beginning of 1982 until 1990? I mean the money that has actually been spent and not planned, because there are projects that will be completed in 1992, 1993, and 1995. In the public and private sectors we have spent 92.9 billion pounds; that is, 93 billion pounds. Had we not begun these investments in 1982 and delayed the infrastructure projects until now, they would have cost us at least 140 to 150 billion pounds. There would have been a difference of some 50 billion pounds if we had delayed these infrastructure projects.

Any major national project costs between 1 and 3 billion pounds, figures which we never heard of in the past. How much did the biggest power plant use to cost [Minister of Electricity] Engineer Mahir Abazah? Seventy to 80 million. Today, it costs over 2 billion, between 2.8 and 2.9 billion. They are astronomical figures, but we have to pay them, and borrow in order to undertake these projects; otherwise, we will not be able to live. Without electricity, there will be no sewage, the factories will stop working, the water supply will stop, and irrigation will stop. It is the backbone of everything we have in our life.

Let us talk about the history of the High Dam, just to show you how long it took. The High Dam project was first thought of immediately after the 1952 revolution. Perhaps the idea dates back further, but according to the books and documents available, it was first given serious thought around the end of 1952 and the beginning of 1953. The relevant studies were completed by 1959. It took six and a half years to do that. That was the biggest national project we had. The implementation took eight yearsand was in two phases: the first started in 1960 and ended in 1964, and the second lasted until 1968. The total costs were 450 million pounds. Let me emphasize that by going into how long it all took, I do not mean to cast doubt on the significance of this great edifice to the life of this great people.

As for the current projects, it seems that because there are so many major national projects, people have taken them lightly, as if it were a question of someone building a small house. Because there are so many of them, they have become commonplace. When you have only one major project, everyone will talk about it, but when there are so many, it is difficult to choose.

Take land reclamation, which I will elaborate on later on. It cost us 1,588 million, not to mention the irrigation canals and ditches, the costs of which I will mention later. The number of feddans reclaimed and currently being cultivated is 756,000. You might say: But you were talking about 900,000 before. I will explain it to you. We have 200,000 feddans to be watered by canals—which I will mention later—in which work is supposed to be completed in September but might be delayed until October or November, but the land will be cultivated it is near Damietta and the al-Salam Canal. I will come to this canal later because it is a bigger project. So we have 756,000 feddans plus 200,000 more; that is, 956,000 feddans. This figure shows the land reclaimed since the end of 1981, in other words, in eight and a half or nine years.

The irrigation and drainage required for cultivating these lands cost us 1,949 million pounds. As you see, the figure is always in thousands of millions, and you will rarely see a figure less than that. Are these not major projects?

In industry, modernization has cost us 15.8 billion pounds in the past eight or nine years. Of course it would have cost us approximately double this figure had we started to carry out these projects now. Prices have skyrocketed worldwide, and in some cases the foreign components needed use up 50 percent, and in some industrial projects, perhaps 70 or 80 percent of the allocations.

Energy. We all used to complain of power cuts, dysfunctional transformers, worn out cables, and inoperational power stations. We all used to get headaches listening to the complaints: O President, the electricity, it is examination time, the students will fail, and so on. It was a headache. The issue was exasperating. We built 14 new power stations and three extensions to stations that were serving 10 million subscribers. It cost us 5.99 billion pounds.

Electricity. Have we forgotten that electricity was a national project? Look at the Shubra al-Khaymah station which cost $1 billion, the Abu Qir station which cost $600 or $700 million. These millions are like 600 piasters or 600 fils in the past. The Abu Sultan power station cost $800 million. These stations are costing astronomical sums. Formerly, the biggest power station used to cost $70 or $100 million—a really major station would cost $100 million. Nowadays, $100 million barely pays the salaries of the employees who operate it.

The telephones. Have we forgotten the national telephone project? The streets were excavated and we said we must bear it and we all did. The telephones alone cost 4.38 billion pounds. I believe that no one can deny the efficiency of this utility—you can make automatic and international calls in all cities. And the sound is clear. Formerly when someone wanted to speak with his son in Kuwait or some other Arab country, he perhaps needed to have connections, know people, or go to the telephone exchange and tell the operator: Please help me, my son is sick. He needed to make up pretexts to get a line and he got a line after a great deal of trouble. In those days, if you simply relied on asking the operator to connect you with a number abroad, it could take a week or they could simply forget all about you. Nowadays you just dial normally, speak with someone anywhere in the world. Anywhere in the world. It cost us 4.38 billion pounds.

The railways. You remember that every train used to pass near Banha and then break down. They used to get another locomotive. The second locomotive used to get as far as Tanta, and then a third locomotive was needed and so on. The railways could not carry the traffic. Meanwhile, the rest of the world was advancing and getting fast trains. No fast train could run on the rails we had. It cost us 2.7 billion pounds to upgrade the system. You know about the double track we are building from Asyut to Qina and which will be extended to Luxor. There is a railroad track which no knows about which was built from Naj' Hammadi or from Qina to Safajah. In the past people, used to have ceremonies, raise flags, and the town in question used to celebrate a new railroad track or double track. These are projects about which we read a few lines in the newspaper. A new railroad track, so what, we say. How long is this new track, Sulayman [addressing transport minister]? It is 270 km—longer than the track between Cairo and Alexandria. It passed unnoticed. Was not this a project? Formerly there was excitement all over the place when such a project was completed.

The subway system. The subway system was built. We celebrated for two days and then forget all about it, as if it was not a national project. It cost 1.2 billion pounds.

The ports. There used to a backlog, and ships used to remain docked for one, two, three, or four months as in some countries, and penalties used to be paid for the delay, perhaps sometimes greater than the cost of the goods the ships were carrying. This is not an exaggeration. The penalties were terrible. A ship used to arrive, the docking and unloading capacities were meager, the ship used to wait for one, two, three months, and we used to pay a penalty to the ship—in hard currency. As if we had much of that. Three, four ports have been expanded and we have 76 new cargo ships. This cost us 2.5 billion pounds.

The bridges. We rejoice at getting new bridges, but the next day we hear nothing about the new bridge because it is now finished. We want something new, as if we had mountains of money which we do not know how to spend. It cost us 2.7 billion pounds to build bridges linking the valley with the desert above the Nile and traffic bridges in the cities. This is the expenditure so far. There are other bridges—for example, we have a new bridge at Rawd al-Faraj in Cairo that is due to be completed in December. December or January? December. It is an enormous bridge on the Nile at Rawd al-Faraj. I bet you have not heard about it. I am not speaking in riddles. I am not deceiving anyone. You can go out and see if the president is telling the truth or not. Go out and see the bridge. I saw it only yesterday from the air. I wanted to enjoy the sight. I am saying this so that the builder will know that I have not forgotten and know the date. I will see him about it. Four months ago I told him: One and a half years ago you told me the bridge would be completed in such and such a month. If it is not going to be completed, I will remind you of the date.

In view of the current expansion in tourism, new airports have been built and existing airports have been extended. The Cairo, Luxor, Aswan, Sharm al-Shaykh, and other airports have been improved and extended. This has cost us 425 million, or about half a billion. A small figure. Does anyone remember the Egyptian national airline company buying an aircraft from its own resources? If you don't know, I am ready to tell you. The company has never purchased an aircraft from its own resources. The government has been buying the aircraft for it. The company has always registered a loss. We have been paying the salaries, operating costs, and buying the aircraft. However, the company is now self-sustaining. We must be proud of it and proud of its technicians, pilots, crew, administrative staff, and all. The company is renewing its fleet at a cost of 1.635 billion pounds. [someone apparently tells Mubarak that it is dollars and not pounds] What? Dollars? Never mind. This means that the figure will be multiplied by two and a little more. What is the exchange rate in the market now? Four thousand million pounds? Never mind, I made a mistake. Instead of saying dollars, I said pounds. The company is getting 16 or 14 new modern aircraft. How could we have paid for them? Where could we get 1.6 or 2 billion to pay for the aircraft? Don't think that the state or the company bought the Boeing aircraft which we have now. A friendly Arab state bought us the Boeing aircraft, including the presidential plane, which are still in service. We would not have been able to pay. If I get 40, 50, or 60 million pounds, am I ready, in the present circumstances, to buy an aircraft? No. I will not buy an aircraft. We need the money for development and for the people. The airline company is able for the first time in its history to purchase aircraft from its revenues. For this reason I say and insist that the citizens should fly with their national airline company, because the revenue is for us. When you fly with a foreign company, we will have to pay foreign currency. The state bears a big burden in payment of foreign currency. But some people have a complex. They must fly on TWA and Pan Am. They only fly on their aircraft. Some go out saying: I have reservations on SwissAir. What is wrong with flying on Egyptair? The company flies good, clean jumbo jets and has good schedules. They complain if the plane is delayed for half an hour. My son was flying with a company to London. Do you know what happened? They said that the plane developed a fault in Amman. They took him from here to Amman, and from there to some other place. They took him around like a ride on the village bus. No one said anything about it. If EgyptAir is delayed for one hour, we write about it as if the world has been turned upside down. The expansion of the Suez Canal cost 468 million pounds. The construction of houses to solve the housing problem cost 11.9 billion pounds. The construction of water pumping stations and water pipe networks—you seem to forget that there was no running water, and sewers were overflowing—has so far cost 8.3 billion pounds. Are these not great national projects? There are so many projects like this that the people seem to forget. They seem to want a project costing 100 billion pounds for the people to rally around. Where can I get the money? I am just giving you some examples. The new urban areas and cities to assimilate the population growth cost 1.2 bilion pounds. This is in addition to the construction under way. This amount is what we have paid so far. There are projects which are still incomplete. The oil refineries and new oil and gas projects cost 2.1 billion pounds. The establishment of new hospitals has so far cost 1.6 billion pounds. I mean the real cost so far, excluding what will be spent later when the construction is over. The establishment of schools—there have been complaints that there were not sufficient classes for boys—cost 2.1 billion pounds. I mention these investment projects so that you will be in the picture of what is going on.

Certain brothers spoke to me about a great national project in the agricultural field. Some doctor said he wanted an agricultural project involving 1 million feddans. This takes money. If I had sufficient money, I would reclaim 1 million feddans. This takes money. If someone wants to eat this or that dish, he has to pay. Everything has its price. We have reclaimed 656 [corrects himself] 756 feddans [figures as heard], and within three months 200,000 more will have been reclaimed when the al-Salam Canal is completed. This canal was supposed to have been completed in September, but there will be a two-month delay. Thus we will have 956,000 feddans that have been reclaimed in the past nine years. The projects cost a great deal of money. Nothing is for free. Some people ask me to establish infrastructure and give them land. The infrastructure costs money. I will explain a project so that you may know how much these projects cost.

Brothers: The available water from the Nile, drainage, and aquifers around the valley that come from the Nile is sufficient for 1.7 million feddans. We have no more water resources. When the sewage of Cairo, Hulwan, and al-Jizah is treated, we may have water for another 500,000 feddans approximately. We still have 2.2 million feddans. We will need two years to build the plants to treat the sewage. The maximum land that we can cultivate by 2010 is 1.7 million feddans. What is causing us trouble is the enormous population growth. I say frankly we cannot cope with this population increase. I am warning of this and sounding the danger bells. Unless we observe family planning, a time will come when we will starve. At present we are still able to get money from here or there and embark on development as much as we can, but there must be control. Everyone must know his limits and build a healthy and educated family that is useful to the homeland. It is no good to have some people selling drugs and others begging in the streets.

The 200,000 feddans that will be cultivated by the end of the year will be deducted from 1.7 million feddans, and 1.5 million feddans will be under cultivation given the available water. We have a project that we have been working on for three years. The problem with this project has been the lack of money. Certain brothers in the Arab countries, who insist on anonymity, are contributing funds to this project. This project begins from the al-Salam Canal 28 km south of Port Said and runs under the Suez Canal 1,000,300 meters [as heard] and goes up 150 km along the northern coast to irrigate 400,000 feddans. The costs of the canal and this project were estimated two or three years ago at 1.05 or 1.06 billion pounds, with half the cost in hard currency. The agreement on this project will be signed at the end of this month. At present, this project will cost no les than 1.5 billion pounds. This is the cost of the canal and the utility alone. The farmers who will buy the land along the canal will have to pay to connect the water to their farms and the cost may total 1 billion pounds. When this sum is divided among the farmers owning the 400,000 feddans, it will not be a problem. The problem was finding the funds. Some people may think this sum is not much, but I have many projects in the country that need funding, not only one. I am just giving one example. The process of overall development needs a tremendous amount of money.

The al-Salam Canal begins from the Damietta branch of the Nile. It takes water from the Damietta and agricultural drainage. It then crosses the Damietta Canal lock, passes near the Suez Canal approximately 28 km south of Port Said, and runs under the Suez Canal and then up for 150 km. I told you that the cost of preparing the land for agriculture totals approximately 1.4 billion pounds. This is only one of many big projects under way. The preparation and implementation of these projects take time. The newspapers reported on these projects. If everyone reads carefully, or if the newspapers highlight these projects properly, you will realize that there are huge national projects. I cannot focus on one project and leave others out. My brother officials in charge and myself endorse all national projects. No one can demand that I run after one project alone. How can I do that? I am a human being just like any of you. I can watch, supervise, and see what has been completed and what has not. Thank God, I have a good memory. If anyone tells me that a project will be completed by a certain date, I do not forget. We cannot focus on only one project. All projects need money. The project which will cost 1.5 billion, which I already mentioned, half of the cost would have to be paid in hard currency because we have to buy pumping stations and other devices. If anyone is unaware of the size of the area that has been cultivated, I am ready to take any group in an aircraft to fly over the area to see it. I go to Burj al-'Arab two or three times every summer. You can see how much the area west of the Desert Highway has changed and what it has become. You cannot imagine this in offices, whatever you are told. There are so many water canals. Do you know how many km of canals we have dug? In the recent past, 675 km of canals have been dug. The al-Nasr Canal that begins at al-Nubariyah and runs south of Burj al-'Arab up to road mark km 79 on the northern coast will run for another 50 km. This canal will irrigate 306,000 feddans. When it is extended by a further 50 km, it will irrigate an additional 72,000 feddans. This water will be taken from the allotted water. The sum total from the al-Nasr Canal is 378,000 feddans. We will start work on the al-Salam Canal and work will reach the the Suez Canal shortly. The Arab countries have agreed to fund the project and will pay the money so that we can implement the 150-km canal project.

So all in all, this al-Nasr Canal, which we are working on, will serve 378,000 feddans. Likewise, work is under way on the al-Salam Canal, and it will soon reach the Suez Canal area. Some Arabs have agreed to finance it so that we will be able to extend this project for 150 km. So, these are the 600,000 feddans, of which 200,000 will be added this year. As for the remaining 400,000, the infrastructure work will take at least four years to complete. If we had the money immediately, it would take something over three years. But sometimes there is a delay in supplies or in credits, so it comes up to approximately four years. So we have 600,000 feddans here, and we had 200,000 and 378,000 feddans before. In addition, there is another project east of Suez to cultivate another 40,000 feddans by means of a canal which one of the Arab brothers intends to come and finance. Therefore, work is under way in all directions. So what is meant by a national project? Does it mean that all of you and all the youngsters will go there and work? Welcome. There are already many projects where the youngsters go to work and get paid. The major national projects are many, too many to keep track of. They are being continuously supervised by several state control agencies and ministers. That was just a small example to show you that the major national projects are many, that they are enormous, and that they cost billions of pounds. So far, 92.9 billion pounds have been spent. Had the infrastructure received attention since the 1940's and 1950's—and there was nothing to prevent that—we would have been making just slight renovations at the moment and we would have used this money to achieve a great development in this country, in industry, agriculture, and everything.

Brother citizens, several developments have occurred in the Arab arena since our last meeting on Labor Day. Some are positive and could contribute to realizing national goals and strengthening the united Arab march on the path of peace and progress. Some are negative and weaken the ability of the Arab peoples to confront the fierce challenges which obstruct their road and drain their efforts and resources. It is not my place here to review these developments in detail. You are fully aware of them and of their most minute details. You are also able to analyze them, place them in their right perspective, and assess their good and bad results and effects on the primary Arab issues which constitute the essence of our national commitment and the main criterion for appraising our work and stands.

It behooves me to say that the challenges which all of us confront without exception require us to be extremely alert, be doubly able to maintain a clear vision of our goal, and be able to distinguish between the basic and fundamental issues which benefit the people and marginal issues which are useless and meaningless and soon forgotten.

None of us is unaware that the primary weapon which we must provide for our nation and peoples to confront these challenges is the sincere solidarity and the unity of ranks which stems from faith in the identity of goals and purposes and the impossibility of contradiction and disagreement on the real interests of the Arab countries. This behooves all Arabs to settle their differences through friendly methods and objective, quiet dialogue, particularly when we see the other states—and I repeat, when we see the other states—burying their acute differences and chronic disputes which has been difficult to solve for more than half a century.

Some of you might ask about the last problem. I will speak briefly about it. I consider it a passing cloud among the brothers in Iraq, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. They are all Arab states and members of the Arab League. They are brothers. I want to say briefly without mentioning any details that by virtue of my experience with the brothers, I am fully confident that with his wisdom, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is capable of bypassing this problem very calmly and objectively so that we may avert obstacles, tension, and possible fragmentation in Arab solidarity. I know well that he supports Arab solidarity and the unity of its goal and destiny.

On the 38th anniversary of the 23 July revolution, we hail with full appreciation the unforgettable leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir [applause], the founder and leader of the revolution, and all the men who put their necks on the line and were ready to sacrifice their lives to write the new history of Egypt so that it could enjoy sovereignty over its territories and achieve independence in its decisions. With faith and daring confrontation, they have led the biggest historic transformation, raising the banners of social justice and exerting efforts. Sometimes they were right, sometimes they were wrong, but to their credit, they were always seeking to serve the supreme interests of a homeland that has for long been the target of ambitions and exploitation. On each and every national day, we must remember our valiant men in the Armed Forces [applause] who have sacrificed their blood and souls to defend Egypt from aggression. Greetings from the heart to those men and to the memory of the Armed Forces martyrs, and a salute to every man in the ranks of the Armed Forces who always stands at full readiness to respond to the call to duty. They are all your sons.

Brothers: Our road remains a difficult one. If during the era of reconstruction we reaped some fruits, the only way to reap all the fruits is by non-stop contributions and self-discipline. We must first ask how much we have contributed before we ask how much we have taken. These are the requirements of the era of reconstruction and development. The wheel has already started turning, but what remains is for it to turn as fast as possible, and we all must take part in driving it forward.

One hand cannot clap nor can a trembling hand build. A secluded individual cannot participate in building. When our hands are united they will be strong. They will be capable of lifting all weights to alleviate the burdens of the toilers and breadwinners. Our primary enemy is division, alienation, and seeking personal interests with no concern for the public interest. Our primary enemy is laxness and the tendency to remain spectators. No good can come to us without hard work. No good can come to us unless we work hard earnestly and honestly.

Since the 23 July revolution, heroes pledged to sacrifice their lives to achieve this great historic transformation, and because our Armed Forces heroes gave thier blood and lives to give Egypt life, it is well worthwhile for us to have them as examples in our work for reconstruction. We do not want to waste our lives sitting down. We do not want to waste efforts in useless goals. We want a continued awakening to compensate for all that we have lost in order to build a revival that is the right of the masses. When the people make a decision, fate will respond. We pray to God Almighty to strengthen our faith, enhance our determination, and guide us on the path of construction. May God grant us success and may God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Minister Reports on Land Reclamation, Agriculture

JN1907153890 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
18 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Approximately 1 million feddans have been reclaimed during the administration of President Husni Mubarak; that is, from the year 1982 up to now, with investments of some 3.8 billion pounds. About 158,000 feddans of these lands were reclaimed this year. This is viewed as a big accomplishment if compared to the tracts of land reclaimed during the 1950's and 1960's, which did not exceed 912,000 feddans.

The abovementioned statements were made to AL-AHRAM by Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation. Wali added: The private sector has reclaimed some 248,000 feddans of this area, not to mention 120,000 feddans reclaimed this year. It contributed almost 1 billion pounds. The minister noted that the land reclamation plan used local investments in all of its projects.

In statements to AL-AHRAM correspondent Nihal Shukri, Wali said that fish-breeding projects have been organized in an area of 500,000 rice feddans this year. Each feddan produces 60-100 kilos of fish. The projects began with the cultivation of 512 feddans in 1983. He added that investments put into the national beef production project totaled 321 million pounds; 500,000 head of cattle were fattened, meeting the demands of red meat, curbing imports, securing the reserves of the Ministry of Supply which are in the vicinity of 150,000 head, and lightening the balance of payments. The project began with the fattening of 50,000 head in the year 1983-84. In the seventh season, 275,000 head were fattened.

The deputy prime minister and agriculture minister said that 100,000 feddans were distributed among 20,000 young graduates and postgraduates over the past three years. He referred to the facilities provided by the state in this regard. He said that each young man becomes the owner of a feddan upon payment of 1,000 pounds, when the actual reclamation costs of that feddan amounted to 5,000 pounds. Each one of these young people is sold a house for 5,000 pounds when the actual cost of the house is 10,000 pounds. The state spends some 25,000 pounds for every young graduate involved in the land reclamation effort. This amount is paid back over a 30-year period after a grace period of four years.

Some 60,000 feddans of agricultural firms have been distributed among a number of their employees in return for leaving their jobs. Settlement activities were also carried out west of al-Buhayrah in an area totaling 10,000 feddans of land belonging to the Western al-Nubariyah Corporation with investments totaling $28 million. Irrigation networks have been built there. Besides, an integrated underground sewage network has been installed. Moreover, water and electricty networks have been renovated in the area.

Dr. Wali also spoke about development projects in the newly-reclaimed lands. He stated that investments by the World Food Program in these lands amounted to some $70 million. The government is contributing 23 million pounds to these endeavors. The revenues from this program are used for projects in the newly-reclaimed lands, including distributingn cattle among beneficiaries, launching agricultural industry projects, initiating small-scale industrial activities, subsidizing the costs of agricultural operations in the first years of cultivation, and supporting agricultural mechanization plans.

Efforts are currently under way to launch the National Agricultural Laboratory for Genetic Engineering, the nucleus for genetic engineering involving agricultural experiments.

Libya

People's Congress Seeks To Bolster Intifadah

LD2307091690 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli 23 July (JANA)—This year's proceedings of the General People's Congress Permanent Secretariat continued in Tripoli last night. Members of the Permanent Secretariat examined the practical means to follow up and develop the aid given to the sweeping popular revolution, led by the generation of anger, in occupied Palestine. Members of the Permanent Secretariat affirmed that the continuation and the development of the sweeping popular revolution in occupied Palestine, as well as scoring more victories, are not matters of concern only to Palestinians, rather they are an Arab concern and a pan-Arab responsibility. Therefore it is of paramount importance to achieve the much-needed principle task, which is the establishment of an effective Arab force with the pricipal task of channeling the necessary support to such a revolution to allow it to attain its main goals.

The participants at the meeting agreed that if such an effective Arab means were established, the revolution of the generation of anger in occupied Palestine would constitute an important lever for the Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy and the United States and would be, furthermore, enough to reawaken the pan-Arab action. Thus, it would free the Arab liberation movement from its choking crisis as well as allow it to regain the initiative based on liberation, progress, and unity.

The conferees stressed the dangers of the current Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine [passage indistinct]. Members of the Permanent Secretariat affirmed the need of the Palestinian resistance to increase the armed struggle on the Lebanese scene against the enemy and to bolster the strategic principle stressing the pan-Arab nature of the battle, which are conditions that must be met to give an Arab impetus to the popular revolution in occupied Palestine and score more gains along this path.

The meeting (?adopted) a number of practical resolutions aimed at mobilizing more efforts [words indistinct] to provide more support for the revolution of the generation of anger with the aim of bringing about effective pan-Arab participation in the struggle to achieve the goals.

Construction of Bunker Near Al-Rabitah Reported

AU2307123590 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 23 Jul 90 p 14

[Unattributed report: "Bunker for Libya"]

[Text] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi wants to construct an underground command center for the military leadership of the country in the Libyan desert next to the poison gas plants of al-Rabitah and Sabha. The FRG Government has passed on confidential information to West German industry about this project since it is to be expected that the al-Qadhdhafi people will try to buy important and apparently harmless construction elements in the FRG. For example, there are plans to equip the command center, which is 30 meters below the surface of the earth, with three diesel generator, each with an output of nine megawatts. Bonn believes that the bunker might also serve as a control station for missile attacks. It is said that missiles are being produced near the poison gas plant of al-Rabitah, which was constructed with German assistance.

Morocco

UNITA's Savimbi Meets With King Hassan II

LD2107132490 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Rabat, July 21 (MAP)—President of the National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) Jonas Savimbi Thursday [19 July] said at the end of an audience he was granted by King Hassan II that he reviewed with the sovereign the situation in Angola in the light of the latest talks held in Lisbon between the Government of Luanda and his movement.

In an interview to the Moroccan news agency 'MAP', UNITA president said he had come to Morocco 'to hear the monarch who is concerned over the situation and stability in Angola' for the voice of the sovereign 'is listened to and respected in Africa'.

'His majesty several times recommend [as received] us to be moderate, flexible and have the will to reach (positive results) through dialog,' Savimbi said.

Referring to the situation in Angola, he said, things have changed both inside and outside the country. Inside, he added, there are more and more people calling for peace and outside 'we see the rise of democratic movements everywhere and the Soviet Union is no longer what it was.'

He said he was optimistic about the situation in Angola 'for the brothers on the other side (the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola ruling party) have accepted to meet us.' He added that all accept peace and reconciliation, but there are still some problems to be settled such as 'mutual recognition, multipartism and a cease-fire.'

Other factors trigger optimism, he went on, there are trends for 'democracy and multipartism which are no longer taboo.' There is need to mobilize African public opinion and show evidence of moderation and flexibility to settle through dialog the pending problems', he said.

Referring to the results of the Gbadolite conference held last year in Zaire, Savimbi said they did not meet expectations for though there were African countries which wanted to help there is still need of some action to give impetus to the move to settle things.

'With his majesty, we found the will to act and he pledged to talk to the people interested in peace in Angola and therefore he works in an African context, for this is an African problem essentially'.

After the Gbadolite conference there had been problems. Several parties tried to find ways out and this is why 'the Portuguese offered to help', he said adding that the Portuguese know all the aspects of the Angolan problem, for they had colonized the country. 'There is no contradiction in the move, however, but complementarity between the African ways and the efforts of Portugal,' he went on.

He expressed optimism after the meeting he had had with the Moroccan king, 'for we have always found with the sovereign the will to understand and mobilize Africans to resolve their problems themselves.'

Italy's De Michelis Concludes Visit

LD2007162690 Rabat MAP in English 1337 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Rabat, July 20 (MAP)—Italian foreign minister and acting president of the EEC Ministers's Council Gianni de Michelis left Rabat Thursday morning after a three-day visit to Morocco.

During his stay, de Michelis was received by King Hassan II and conferred separately with Morocan peer Abdellatif Filali and with Minister of Finance Mohamed Berrada with whom he signed two accords on means of promoting economic and financial cooperation between the two countries.

The first accord provides for the encouragement and protection of investments in Morocco, while the second stipulates the extension to Morocco of a loan worth U.S. $100 million to the benefit of small and medium-sized businesses.

De Michelis also announced that the situation of 42,000 Moroccan workers was regularized.

After Morocco, the Italian minister is to visit Athens where he is to meet Greek peer Antonio Samaras and Prime Minister Constantin Mitsotakis.

De Michelis arrived Tuesday [17 July] here at the invitaion of Moroccan peer Abdellatif Filali.

Sudan

Kuwaiti Envoy Delivers Message 21 July

LD2207124190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1056 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, July 22 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Cabinet Affairs Minister Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi left here last night for Cairo after delivering a message from the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah to chairman of the Sudanese ruling Military Council General 'Umar al-Bashir.

The message, which dealt with the dispute with Iraq, was received by Vice Chairman of the Military Council Major-General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih yesterday afternoon. But, the official Sudan News Agency said briefly that the message was "on bilateral relations and issue of mutual concern."

SUNA said al-'Awadi arrived Khartoum yesterday afternoon and was received and seen off by the Cabinet Affairs Minister Colonel Dr. al-Tayyib Ibrahim.

Dr. al-'Awadi was in Khartoum long enough to deliver the message before proceeding with his tour of the other Arab states.

Integration With Libya To Be Implemented in Aug

EA1907123890 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19 July (SUNA)—The integration between Sudan and Libya will enter its implementation phase immediately following the joint talks scheduled to be held in Tripoli, Libya, next August, explained Dr Abu al-Qasim Ahmad Shummu, the state minister of agriculture. He described, in a statement to the daily "AL-INQADH AL-WATANI" published today, the integration between the two countries as a strategic action needed to challenge the threats facing the Arab nations" [no opening quote as received]. He explained that the integration will cover all walks of life in the two countries.

900,000 Ethiopian Refugees Reported in Sudan

EA2107152590 Khartoum SUNA in English 0919 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, 21 July (SUNA)—The number of the Ethiopian refugees who [have] crossed the eastern borders have reached 900,000 as their flow into the country continued at a rate [of] 30 refugees per day.

A reliable source at the eastern region said [that] although restricted measures were adopted to curtail the influx of refugees through the eastern borders, they managed to sneak into the country and commit some looting and shop breaking activities. Tightened security measures were adopted to face these activities, said the source.

He quoted the governor of the eastern region as urging the international community to render assistance to the refugees in the region.

Rebels 'Continuing' To Receive Israeli Aid

EA1907115490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0922 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jul (SUNA)—The rebellion movement is continuing to receive military assistance from Israel, military sources said yesterday. The sources disclosed that four large containers loaded with Israeli weapons were received by the rebellion movement at Eastern Equatoria last month. The outlaws also received large quantities of Israeli weapons during last May, the sources said.

Minister Reaffirms Cut of 50,000 Jobs

EA1907211590 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19 July (SUNA)—Presidential Affairs Minister Colonel al-Tayib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr has reaffirmed that the announced personnel cut was aimed to lay hand in the job excess in government units. He said this would help the government re-position the surplus of employees at new jobs after retraining them. He said this jobs reduction was stipulated in the budget for the fiscal 1990-91 announced last June. The minister added however that the three-year economic reform programme has underlined the creation of a fund that would [word indistinct] jobs excessive in the government units.

Finance and Enonomic Planning Minister 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi Wednesday [18 July] said some 50,000 jobs would be cut to save money for the government. He said this constitutes 10 percent of the government units' 500,000 jobs in all. [passage indistinct] The minister has pinpointed that jobs cut would not include security organs and the Health and Education Ministries.

Kuwait

Envoy Recounts 'Positive' Meeting With Al-Asad

LD2407085590 Kuwait KUNA in English 0725 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 24 (KUNA)—State Minister for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, delegated by His Highness the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah to deliver messages explaining the country's viewpoints as regards the oil and border crisis with neighbouring Iraq returned home last night from Damascus, his last stop.

In a statement to KUNA in Damascus, al-'Awadi said that Kuwait would settle any dispute with any Arab country within the framework of the Arab family away from any foreign interference.

He described the existing conflict between Kuwait and Iraq as transient, adding there are more important issues threatening Arab national security.

Al-'Awadi said his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was positive. He said President al-Asad had expressed his keenness on maintaining Arab solidarity and to refrain from stirring up marginal issues that would deflect attention from the real challenges facing them.

The Kuwaiti envoy had delivered similar messages to the heads of state of Lebanon, Egypt, Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen, Jordan and Sudan within the context of Kuwait's diplomatic offensive to counter the Iraqi accusations.

KUNA Director Appeals to Saddam on Dispute

LD2307134190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1203 GMT 23 Jul 90

(Text] London, July 23 (KUNA)—Board chairman and director general of the Kuwait news agency (KUNA) has appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to resort to Arab national principles to settle the transient dispute between Iraq and its neighbours, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

In a letter addressed to President Husayn, [Muhammad] al-Barjas said it was regrettable that the dispute surfaced at a time the Arab nation was in need for the unity of its rank and file more than any time to confront its enemies.

"It adds to our pain that this matter exploded after the recent Arab summit that you hosted in Baghdad and which renewed the hopes of the Arab citizen in the advent of a new dawn of solidarity and detente to end the differences which led to our disarray and weakened and humilated us in front of our enemies," al-Barjas told Husayn.

Al-Barjas, also president of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA), was optimistic that the common destiny of the Kuwait and Iraq was capable of resolving any dispute between them.

He underscored that the crisis had provided the enemies of the Arab nation and particularly the enemies of Iraq a free stuff to fuel their media campaigns against the Arabs. [sentence as received]

He stressed that the wise leadership of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was the best guarantee to contain the crisis and settle it quietly.

Al-Barjas, a veteran journalist, expressed hope that a dispute would not overshadow arab central causes topped by the question of the Palestinian people.

He described the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah and President Saddam as the most capable Arab leaders in dealing with crises and eliminating them in their cradles.

Al-Barjas appealed to President Saddam as an advocate of Arab unity to invoke the principles of solidarity and renunciation of the use of force in settling Arab differences [words indistinct] principles long-proclaimed by Iraq.

"Your Excellency, you said on one occasion "we keep our secrets as Arabs in order not to differ but I wonder what happened to change these convictions to expose our backs to the enemies of our nation," al-Barjas questions.

I address you as an Arab citizen who knows your keenness on Arab unity, a goal you struggle for even with states geographically away from Iraq not to mention neighbouring Kuwait which you once said it has a special place in the hearts of the Iraqis from the head of the state to the ordinary man in the country," he reminded President Husayn.

"Despite this sad unfolding of events, I am still confident that you have enough wisdom and contemplation to put things back in their natural course...to put an end to the foggy vision which will deflect us from our noble goals," al-Barjas said.

"I appeal to you to resort to the esteemed national principles to end this cloud which (?ruptured relations) between the brothers and availed the enemies of the nation to fish in dirty water and sow the seeds of doubts amid the brothers," al-Barjas concluded.

Editorial Supports Arab Arbitration on Oil Issue

JN2207072790 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 21 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Dispute and not Discord among Brothers"]

[Excerpts] To see differences or even a dispute emerge between two Arab states is no longer unusual, even though it is still unacceptable. The contemporary Arab history of inter-Arab ties, if we are to use the term, is replete with differences and reconciliations.

Some view this phenomenon as a continuation of tribal differences, while others believe that these problems are caused by outstanding issues left to fester by colonial rulers to serve as time bombs between our states.

Some others attribute this to a clash of national interests caused by the absence of pan-Arab trends. As for us, we believe that these differences are part of the labor pains preceding the birth of Arab unity. Many nations and peoples went through such pains, albeit more sharply and violently, before they attained national unity. [passage omitted]

Once again, to see differences or even a dispute emerge between two Arab states is no longer unusual, even though it is still unacceptable. But to see the dispute this time emerge between Jabir al-Ahmad's Kuwait and Saddam Husayn's Iraq at this particular point in time is strange and surprising. This is a painful development, considering the affection between the two leaders. However, this talk, despite its candor and and honesty, is not enough. Very regrettably, the dispute has emerged and become public knowledge. Besides, blame has been publicly apportioned by the two fraternal sides.

That the dispute emerged is strange, astonishing, and excruciatingly painful. Its continuation and escalation is unacceptable and unreasonable, because the sole beneficiaries would be Israel and the enemies of the Arab nation. Moreover, the harm caused by failure to resolve this dispute would not remain confined to aborting Iraqi endeavors and Kuwaiti accomplishments. No, such harm would also tear apart the ranks which Iraq and Kuwait cooperated to see closed. Such failure would also bury hopes revived by Iraq and Kuwait, lead the Arab nation into a new labyrinth of disunity and fragmentation, and return it to the pre-al-Qadisiyah era.

Consequently, the Kuwaiti proposal to present the dispute to an Arab arbitration panel is the ideal way out. It is in line with the most basic rules of justice and also with the way Iraq lodged its complaint. Agreement must be reached on this, and the agreement must be implemented. At this point in time, all of us in Kuwait and Iraq must demonstrate integrity and nobility in our coverage of the issue. We must also display pan-Arab sentiments and Islamic ethics in our efforts to resolve differences between Islamic leaders. All of us in Kuwait stand united behind the political leadership, which is well-known for its acumen, wisdom, resolve, and vigilance, represented by the amir of the country as well as his heir apparent and prime minister. All of us in Kuwait are fully aware that Jabir al-Ahmad and Saddam Husayn are wise and capable brothers who know quite well how to resolve differences of opinion and interpretation between brothers within the framework of fraternity and only through dialogue, consultations, negotiations, and cooperation with the remaining brothers at the Arab League.

Paper Affirms Society's Cohesion, Arab Unity

LD2407085790 Kuwait KUNA in English 0731 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 24 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti daily Tuesday stressed the cohesion of the Kuwaiti society, its belief in Arabism and Islam and non-existence of any differences among its citizens, families or tribes.

Daily AL-SIYASAH, rejecting any false accusations against any Kuwaiti or any attempt to drive wedges between the government and the people, affirmed unity of both.

It asserted that Kuwaitis are part of their Arab brothers and all are part of the Arab nation but expressed fears on presence of elements that are outside such sublime belonging. [as received]

In conclusion, the paper expressed regret over mistakes commited in the name of Arabism, fraternity and good neighborliness.

Shaykh Nasir's Office Becomes 'Department'

LD2207085990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0709 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 22 (KUNA)—State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad Sunday issued a decision to transfer his office into a department. He also issued a resolution appointing Ambassador Ahmad al-Fahad director of Shaykh Nasir's office. Al-Fahd was director of the foreign undersecretary's office.

Oman

King Husayn Arrives on 'Short Working Visit'

JN1807195490 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Excerpt] His majesty the [Jordanian] king arrived in Salalah on a short working visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit, his majesty will hold talks with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa‘id on bilateral, Arab, and international issues.

Earlier this afternoon, his majesty the king paid a short visit to Saudi Arabia. He was received in Jeddah by King Fahd Bin-‘Abd-al-‘Aziz Al Sa‘ud and Crown Prince ‘Abdallah Bin-‘Abd-al-‘Aziz. His majesty's stopover in Saudi Arabia followed a two-day visit to the Republic of Yemen. [passage omitted]

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1907151390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Salalah, 19 Jul (WAKH)—Jordan's King Husayn left Salalah this afternoon after a two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman, during which he met with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa‘id.

King Husayn was seen off at the airport by Sultan Qabus and senior Omani officials.

Qatar

Draft Economic Agreement With USSR Approved

JN2307143590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 23 Jul (WAKH)—A session of official economic talks was held today between the Qatari side, led by Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Jasim Bin-Muhammad Al Thani, director of the Economy and Trade Ministry, and the Soviet delegation, led by Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy minister at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economics Relations, currently visiting Doha.

During the session, the two sides discussed the draft agreement of economic, trade, and technical cooperation between the State of Qatar and the USSR, which will constitute the general framework for organizing bilateral cooperation in the future in order to develop and enhance it.

The two sides approved the final formula of the draft economic agreement. They are expected to endorse it tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Republic of Yemen

DFLP's Hawatimah Arrives; To Meet With Salih

JN2207175690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to Yemen at the invitation of the political leadership.

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency SABA', brother Hawatimah said the visit comes in the framework of brotherly ties between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions. He pointed out that he will meet brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and other officials to discuss Palestinian and Arab developments, particularly the increasing use of oppressive measures by the Israeli occupation troops against the Palestinian intifadah after terrorist Shamir formed the extremist government... [station goes off the air for 45 seconds] ...and the various issues presented to the Palestinian leadership's meeting, scheduled to begin in Tunis within the next few days to prepare for the meetings of the PLO Central Council, which will convene in Baghdad shortly.

He was received by Brother Dr. Ahmad al-Asbahi, advisory council member and secretary of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress, and Brother Jawdat Yusuf, the DFLP's representative in our country.

Council Member on Opposition to Constitution

JN1907161290 Paris AL-YAWM AL-SABI' in Arabic 16 Jul 90 p 11

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the Yemeni Advisory Council and "chairman of the Higher Committee entrusted with reconsidering administrative divisions so as to entrench national unity and eliminate the remnants of divisionism," by unidentified correspondent in Sanaa; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] We have heard that you oppose the Constitution, on whose basis unity was established. Is that true?

[Al-Ahmar] The Yemeni people, north and south, are Muslims. They do not contain a non-Muslim minority, as in Egypt and other Arab countries. Therefore, there is no justification for some of the articles in the unity constitution which are out of keeping with Islamic shari'a. Scholars and shaykhs alike have named nine articles opposing Islamic shari'a. They sent petitions enclosing the articles along with evidence. Among these is the article that says: Islamic shari'a is the basic source of legislation. What is needed is for Islamic shari'a to be the source of all legislation.

Thank God, we in Yemen abide by Islamic shari'a in letter and spirit. We refer to it in all affairs of our life and it is the final judge of all disputed issues. Since the outbreak of the Yemeni revolution and up to now, all our laws have been in harmony with Islamic shari'a. Moreover, any law that happens to clash with Islamic shari'a is immediately rejected. No law that runs counter to Islamic shari'a has ever been passed. Since the beginning of Islam and up to now, Yemen has been ruled by Islamic shari'a. Therefore, unlike other peoples, we have never asked for reapplication of Islamic laws. We take pride in this fact. We should go on with this method and not abandon it. This is the reason we, along with Yemeni scholars and shaykhs, are asking for the amendment of the Constitution. This demand will remain unchanged.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Does this position affect the way you feel toward unity?

[Al-Ahmar] We are advocates and protectors of unity. Our position toward the Constitution does not mean that we will hesitate to support and protect unity. We were advocates of unity in the past; now we will become protectors of unity.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] Official statements made by Yemeni and Saudi officials discuss dialogue and understanding and mutual support. However, we hear gossip everywhere about tension in the relations of the two countries. What do you think?

[Al-Ahmar] What officials in Yemen and Saudi Arabia say is responsible talk. What others say is irresponsible.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] But gossip is especially focused on Jizan and Najran.

[Al-Ahmar] There is no disagreement. The parts of the Yemeni-Saudi border not yet demarcated will be so in the future in a fraternal spirit and with eagerness to maintain the fraternal bilateral ties. There is an agreement between Yemen and Saudi Arabia concluded in 1934 which shows what has and has not been demarcated.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] What do you think of political pluralism and the dialogue committee entrusted with this issue?

[Al-Ahmar] I have nothing to say about the dialogue committee. However, dialogue should have preceded unity. As for pluralism, my stand is clear. All the Yemeni people view party activity with apprehension, fear, and disgust. They also think it is incompatible with Islam.

However, now that the Socialist Party, which was in Aden, has moved from Aden to become a partner in ruling the whole of Yemen, it means that we have accepted parties. In addition, the Constitution does approve the presence of parties and political organizations. There should not be one or two parties in Yemen to rule alone. There must be many parties to maintain democracy in a correct way. With one party, however, there is not a democracy but a dictatorship.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] How do you view the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] after the establishment of unified Yemen?

[Al-Ahmar] We have no reservations about the ACC; we support it. Also, I was a member of the delegation that traveled to Baghdad the day the ACC was declared.

[AL-YAWM AL-SABI'] In olden days, there were feuds and rivalries among the tribes of Hashid and Bukayl. How are things now?

[Al-Ahmar] Differences have thawed to a great extent. Now the tribes' leaders have established relations of brotherliness, cooperation, and understanding among themselves. They all cooperate with the state and with local inhabitants. They also help to build roads and install electricity. Yemeni shaykhs do have a political background and are enlightened and civilized. Thoughts to the contrary are wrong and should be wiped from memory.

We coordinate with Shaykh Sinan Abu-al-Luhum and other shaykhs. The border between Hashid and Bukayl no longer exists.

United Arab Emirates

Editorial Regrets Iraqi 'Furor', Memorandum

JN2307161290 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 21 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Resolving Differences in a Spirit of Brotherhood and Prudence"]

[Text] Our country's firm pan-Arab positions, engraved as they are in the conscience of our people and homeland, need no certificate of good conduct from anyone.

Furthermore, any accusations against our country's policy require no deep worry so much as they require regret toward those who level them—particularly if they are brothers who are supposed to be mature, wise, and eager to close ranks and mobilize resources to counter the crucial challenges threatening our entire nation and all its individual countries.

Moreover, any accusations against our country's pan-Arab positions and overall policy need not be refuted. Translated into action as they have always been, these positions, in themselves, can alone stand up to the accusations and even raise questions and cast doubts on the true motives of their accusers.

Hence, the Foreign Ministry did well when it opted for a brief, calm, and responsible reaction to the Iraqi Government's memorandum to the Arab League. This memorandum, in fact, did not remain as an official letter presenting viewpoints on disputed issues as a prelude to holding responsible Arab debate on them in the Arab League. Regrettably, by releasing the memorandum to Arab and international news media in a press conference through a ranking official, the memorandum was turned into an instrument to create a crisis, inflate a problem, and create a tense atmosphere among the concerned parties and at the Arab level.

The manner in which the memorandum was made public gave a new card to the enemies of our nation, especially the United States, which rushed to fish in "the waters of the crisis" and to make statements basically aimed at deepening the differences.

We as Arab citizens have the right to express our astonishment at the furor created by the government of fraternal Iraq for some time, which reached a peak with the publication of the Iraqi memorandum to the Arab League. This is especially true because the furor came only less than a week after the Riyadh agreement on oil production quotas among five Arab member-countries of OPEC, including Iraq itself, and less than two months after Baghdad's extraordinary summit, which was considered a turning point for new dealings between the Arab countries under the slogan of "protecting pan-Arab security."

We hope that the fraternal Iraqi Government will immediately allow the crisis to be contained. It must not be more than a passing summer cloud. Neither Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, nor the Arab nation has an interest in the continuation of this crisis. And as stated in the United Arab Emirates' calm and responsible memorandum: "Wherever they exist, Arab problems and differences must be solved in a spirit of brotherhood, amity, wisdom, foresight, and mutual respect." "Escalating crises and resorting to emotionalism would reflect negatively on the Arab march and on joint Arab action, and would only benefit the Arab nation's enemies."

Ambassador to Algiers Queried on Troop Deployment

LD2407130890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] An AFP dispatch, citing the U.S. THE WASHINGTON POST, reports that an estimated 80,000 Iraqi troops have been deployed along the border with Kuwait. When we contacted the Iraqi ambassador in Algiers and asked him to confirm or deny the report, he merely said that it was not possible to trust U.S. media sources.

Tariq 'Aziz Reacts to Kuwaiti Government Memo

JN2407093790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0744 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent a letter to Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, in reply to the Kuwaiti Government's memorandum dated 18 July 1990.

INA has learned that the General Secretariat of the Arab League distributed the letter among Arab states the day before yesterday at the request of Iraq. The following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency Brother Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, fraternal greetings:

Having taken cognizance of the Kuwaiti Government's memorandum dated 26 Dhi al-Hijjah 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 18 July 1990, I would like to begin by commenting on the expressions of astonishment and amazement contained in the introduction to the memorandum issued regarding the contents of my letter dated 15 July 1990. These expressions reflect, by themselves, painful facts which were the reason for writing our letter.

The Kuwaiti Government's officials have deliberately chosen to harm Iraq and pursued a set plan over the past years to advance toward Iraqi territory and steal the wealth of its sons throughout Iraq's preoccupation with the war in defence of the Arab nation's sovereignty, dignity, and the Gulf states' wealth. These officials are expressing astonishment today because we are exposing their conduct before the Arab nation after all of our fraternal attempts to make them desist from this conduct have failed. They are expressing amazement because they have made a habit of exploiting our silence and patience over many long years. We have maintained silence out of eagerness to safeguard the fraternal ties which they have not respected and the higher pan-Arab interests which they purposely failed to heed.

The Kuwaiti Government's letter is full of fallacies which are easy to discover. They circumvent the facts clearly shown in our letter and seek to divert attention from these facts by using general terms with the aim of evading the task of dealing with the harm and injustice which the Kuwaiti Government has inflicted on Iraq. The following are some of the remarks we have about the Kuwaiti Government's letter:

1. The Kuwaiti Government's letter states: What adds to Kuwait's amazement is that this memorandum is being sent at a time when coordination between the two countries is continuing in various spheres. We would like to ask the Kuwaiti Government about the coordination steps it has taken in the direction of Iraq. The fact which must be known to all Arabs is that the Kuwaiti officials have been evading and procrastinating over efforts to effect any serious coordination between the two countries.

An example of this is the delay and procrastination in responding to the Iraqi offer presented to the Kuwaiti Government on supplying Kuwait with water from the Shatt al-'Arab to reflect the fraternal sentiments we harbor toward the fraternal Kuwaiti people.

There is also the issue of the direct air corridor between Kuwait and Iraq. During the war Iraq was prevented from using this corridor. In November 1989, through a message from the Iraqi transport and communications minister to his Kuwaiti counterpart, Iraq requested the reopening of this air corridor. However, the Kuwaiti Government disregarded this. In January 1990 the Iraqi transport and communications minister sent another message to his Kuwaiti counterpart but he received no reply. In February 1990 I personally talked with the Kuwaiti foreign minister and asked him to settle this issue but we received no reply. This action by the Kuwaiti Government meant that Basra International Airport was prevented from working as an international airport after the war ended and when Kuwait had reopened the air corridor between it and Iran. Does such action fall within the framework of concern about coordination with the brothers as the Kuwaiti Government's memorandum claims?

Facts indicate that in the period from September 1980 until now Iraq was the first to initiate visits to Kuwait to begin coordination on all joint issues, including those contained in our letter on 15 July 1990. If we calculate the number of the Iraqi officials' visits to Kuwait, we will find that they are more than the Kuwaiti officials' visits to Iraq. This is another fact to be added to the other facts about the party that is truly concerned about coordination.

2. The Kuwaiti memorandum was correct when it said that Iraq was at the head of the brothers calling for achieving accord in Arab ties, for avoiding all that would disturb these ties, and for working to achieve balance in these ties in the interest of joint Arab action. Iraq has always been, is still, and will continue to be known for this. However, the Kuwaiti Government officials abused these principles when, throughout the years of war and after and in a programmed and calculated manner, they deliberately sought to harm Iraq and encroach on its territory and rights. Had they respected these principles and implemented them in their relations with Iraq, which was friendly to Kuwait and endured its offenses, we would not have resorted to what we did not want to do.

In his speech on 17 July 1990 President Saddam Husayn expressed the deep pain we felt when we were forced to expose the harm done to us, when he said: "We are forced to say this. And this causes us heartrending pain. It saddens us a great deal. We did not wish to speak of usurped rights when the usurpers are Arabs. We wished to focus in our speech, as has always been our habit, on the rights exclusively usurped by foreigners. However, the evildoers are the only ones responsible before God and the nation for the consequences of their bad deeds, in which they have demonstrated things we have never seen before. We wish they would demonstrate other things."

3. The Kuwaiti Government refers to what it endured in terms of attacks on its land, oil installations and tankers, and commercial interests during the war. It is thus ignoring political and geographical facts related to the conflict that took place between 1980, or before, and 1988. In our memo we said that all heads of the Arabian Gulf states, along with the Arab nation, had emphasized that the battle was not only an Iraqi one but also one in defense of the Gulf and its security and sovereignty. Kuwait was the closest to the battlefield and received direct external and internal threats and parts of the Kuwaiti memo confirm this. If Kuwait has taken some stands that we valued, as mentioned in our letter on 15 July, it actually did so largely to avert danger to itself. And if Kuwait sustained only material losses, we sacrificed our dear blood and sustained huge losses. Nevertheless, we viewed and continue to view the issue from a pan-Arab perspective. In our letter, we raised questions that the Kuwaiti memo did not answer. We did not mention the increase of production by certain Gulf states during the absence of Iraqi exports nor about the wealth they accumulated during the war, although we provided relevant facts and figures.

4. The Kuwaiti Government's memo said Iraq has a record full of encroachments on Kuwaiti territory. These are mere lies and a reversal of the facts because Iraq was preoccupied by war for eight years and there was no soldier, policeman, or border guard in the cited areas. They were all fighting on the front in defense of the nation's honor and sovereignty while Kuwaiti officials' main preoccupation was planning the gradual seizure of Iraq's territory, building border posts, setting up farms, and establishing military and oil installations there. Iraq paid no attention to that because it was waging a crucial battle on behalf of all Arabs and because its views on Arab territory and Arab relations are well known.

5. The memo says Iraq refused to demarcate the borders with Kuwait, which is a fallacy refuted by facts, documents, and events. The issue between Iraq and Kuwait, is, first of all—and as mentioned in Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi's letter to the Kuwaiti foreign minister on 30 April 1990, a copy of which is attached herewith—not an issue of demarcation as claimed in the Kuwaiti memo. The status of borders as cited in the letter is actually the status of two neighboring countries that are linked by bonds of close kinship but have not yet reached an agreement fixing their land and sea borders.

The Kuwaiti memorandum ignored our initiative which we referred to in our letter of 15 July 1990. During our participation in the Algiers summit of May 1988 I personally conveyed to the Kuwaiti foreign minister the desire of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to settle the border issue between the two countries. However, the Kuwaiti side, despite a number of contacts on this matter, evaded the entire issue. The Kuwaiti side informed us that its circumstances did not allow for a discussion of this issue and asked us to postpone such discussion. The Kuwaiti officials also contacted us and informed us of their desire to transfer responsibility for the border issue from one Kuwaiti official to another. Moreover, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn proposed once again to his highness the Kuwaiti amir, during his visit to Iraq in September 1989, that the two countries discuss the issue once again and resolve it in a fraternal way.

As for the reference contained in the Kuwaiti memorandum to the settlement of [Iraqi] border problems with Saudi Arabia and Jordan, this is true. As a matter of fact, we have never had any border problems with Saudi Arabia and Jordan the way we have with Kuwait. There were outstanding and limited border problems. We tackled these problems from a pan-Arab perspective without any conflict over inches of territory between fraternal states. We hoped the Kuwaiti Government would tackle this issue in a similar way as the brothers in Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

6. As regards the reference in the Kuwaiti Government's memorandum to the pan-Arab charter proposed by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in February 1980 and the false link between the charter and a proposal contained in the memorandum, we would like to say that the pan-Arab charter is an indivisible whole. No party can take from it what it likes and stab the heart of the other principles and ideas contained in this charter because the Arab ties proposed by the charter are comprehensive and intertwined. Moreover, if the Kuwaiti Government actually subscribes to the pan-Arab charter announced 10 years ago, why did it not say so? And why did it evade signing the agreements we submitted to it, agreements similar to those we signed with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other countries of the region?

Why was it angered by the proposals we submitted and which were in harmony with the principles contained in this charter as well as the Arab League charter, as seen in a letter sent by Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi on 30 April 1990? The pursuit of a selective approach can never be a sound one in inter-Arab ties. The required approach is a comprehensive one based on the advocation of firm pan-Arab principles and also on an awareness of the needs and requirements of pan-Arab security.

The Kuwaiti Government's memorandum has barely touched on the questions that we raised regarding its oil policy which deliberately sought to harm Iraq. It has not replied to the points we raised. These facts are well known to all brothers in the region, because we complained to them about the Kuwaiti oil policy. They in return supported our complaints and lodged separate complaints. Furthermore, the brothers affirmed that they too were being harmed by this premeditated policy which seeks to undermine the oil market and cause losses to the oil-producing states, eight Arab states with the exception of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. This confirms the accuracy of what is contained in our letter.

8. With regard to the Kuwaiti Government's claims on Iraq's al-Rumaylah oil field, we assert that this field belongs to Iraq by name and location. The oil the Kuwaiti Government intentionally extracted from this field while Iraq was preoccupied with war, which is only one example of the Kuwaiti Government's violations that are not confined only to this field, is theft which the Kuwaiti Government must return to the struggling people of Iraq.

9. More importantly the Kuwaiti Government was not satisfied to respond to our message by addressing a memo to the Arab League but also sent a message on this subject to the president of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general on Thursday, 19 July. Does the Kuwaiti Government intend to internationalize this issue when its memo was replete with resounding words about the Arab League and its charter and inter-Arab relations?

Actions reveal facts. The recent U.S. statements frankly saying that the Kuwaiti Government can take refuge under U.S. forces perhaps shed more light on the issue and confirm what we stressed in President Saddam Husayn's speech on 17 July and in our message on 15 July to the effect that the Kuwaiti Government's policy was a U.S. policy. In fact, this constitutes considerable encouragement to the Kuwaiti Government to continue its policy of aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. Where is your position on the Arabs, Arabism, and the Arab League, O Kuwaiti Government?

In this respect, we tell the Kuwaiti Government that foreigners will not protect those who conspire against the Arab nation and threaten the essence of its interests. The Arab nation has already dealt with such situations and the result is already known.

I would like to request the secretary general to distribute this letter among the Arab states. With my best regards and wishes.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq
[Dated] 29 Dhi al-Hijjah 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 21 July 1990, in Baghdad

Sa'dun Hammadi's 30 Apr Letter to Kuwait

JN2407102990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, sent a letter to the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister on 30 April 1990. The following is the text of the letter:

His Excellency brother Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait, Arab greetings. I received your letter dated 30 Sha'ban 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 17 March 1990, which was conveyed to us by your envoy brother Sulayman Majid al-Shayn.

I have carefully studied your letter from the viewpoint of the existing fraternal relations between us and Iraq's genuine desire to preserve and consolidate these relations in order to strengthen the bonds between our two fraternal countries further and to bolster the Arab nation's position against the serious threats to its security, existence, and future generations.

I am sending this letter to you as a clarification not a reply to your letter within the context of the constructive and frank dialogue taking place between our two fraternal countries to tackle issues of mutual concern. Therefore, I would like to note the following points:

1. You must know, since you have borne the responsibility of foreign minister in your country for a long time, that the border issue between Iraq and Kuwait has at no time been a technical issue, as you said in your letter. You also mention in your letter what you call "an agreement" on this issue. You know from your position that what you call an agreement has no de jure or de facto effect. It is long over and done with.

The situation since the establishment of our two countries in this century is that of two neighboring countries that are united by bonds of close kinship and which have not, so far, reached an agreement defining their land or sea borders. Perhaps there are several reasons for the delay in reaching an agreement on this issue, some of which are outside the scope of our pan-Arab will. Others arise from the the fact that Iraq, especially in the two decades since the 17-30 July Revolution, has wanted—and still wants—to tackle this issue within a fraternal and objective framework, combining established historical facts and higher pan-Arab interests. It also wants to proceed in a fraternal, open-minded, and confident way that does not stem from regional selfishness but from the basis that every inch of Iraqi or Kuwaiti territory, whether on land or at sea, is part of the Arab homeland, whose sons must close their ranks to defend its security and destiny with firm respect for the sovereignty of each side on its territory and firm and genuine respect for one another as brothers and states.

In all the deliberations between us over the past two decades on this issue, Iraq's objective was not to increase what it has but to be in a position, which it deserves historically and realistically, to defend pan-Arab security in this region. The experience of the Iranian aggression and the huge sacrifices Iraq made to repulse this aggression over eight years have indisputably proved the importance of what Iraq is calling for, not only in the interest of Iraq but in the interest of all the Arabs in the Gulf.

Perhaps you know that directly after the liberation of al-Faw Iraq was the first to propose the reopening of discussions on the border issue after it was suspended for several years. This was when brother Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, informed you of this desire during the Algiers summit in 1988 pursuant to President Saddam Husayn's instructions. As you know, discussions on the issue stopped after this in compliance with the desire conveyed by brother Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, his highness the heir apparent's envoy, when he visited Baghdad on 27 March 1989. Then it was decided to reopen discussions within a firm framework of brotherhood and objectivity during his highness the Kuwaiti amir's visit to Iraq and his meeting with his brother President Saddam Husayn.

Iraq desires that this issue be settled once and for all in accordance with the bases we referred to and within the period and formula our brothers in Kuwait choose so that our fraternal relations can proceed effectively. We feel, as you do, that these relations are firm and deep, praise be to God.

2. You have expressed astonishment at the two proposals we made to you during your recent visit to Baghdad on 18 March 1990. These two proposals, brother, are two Iraqi proposals that we made to you during the meeting that was held with you when I visited Kuwait on 19 November 1989, carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Highness Amir Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah. You frankly agreed to give Iraq the same kind of facilities you gave it during the war with Iran. Regarding the proposal on the provisions of the joint defense agreement, your reply was in agreement with this and stressed the essence of the joint defense agreement without mentioning its clauses. During your recent visit to Baghdad, we gave you these two proposals in writing. Therefore, we are the ones who were surprised by your letter expressing astonishment at making these proposals.

If we go back to the history of discussions on the border issue between our countries, we will find—particularly during the last two decades—that Iraq was the first and only side to make proposals to resolve this issue, showing its flexibility time and again to reach a satisfactory solution. Iraq was seeking sincerely and with good intentions to place the issue within a more comprehensive framework that, according to our belief, would reinforce the requirements of pan-Arab security. We have not yet received any proposal from you that we can discuss. You have even disavowed the oral proposals you made in the seventies.

At any rate, we are wholeheartedly ready to listen to your proposals on any aspect of the issues under discussion between us. We pledge to you, as is our custom, to deal with them in a fraternal and objective manner. Our objective is to bolster the relations of brotherhood between our two fraternal countries and to reinforce the glorious Arab nation's position. Regards.

[Signed] Your brother, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi
[Dated] 30 April 1990

Tariq 'Aziz Departs Baghdad for Cairo 22 Jul

JN2207084290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt, left Baghdad for Cairo this morning.

Returns From Egypt 23 Jul

JN2307183190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and leader President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, returned to Baghdad this evening following a visit to Cairo and Alexandria.

During the visit, Tariq 'Aziz conveyed an oral message from leader President Saddam Husayn to his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Leader President Saddam Husayn's envoy also delivered a message from his excellency to King Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan when the Jordanian king received the leader president's envoy in Alexandria today. The message concerns relations between the two fraternal countries.

Egyptian President Arrives on 'Brief Visit' 24 Jul

NC2407073590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0732 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Baghdad at 1030 Baghdad time today on a brief visit to Iraq. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn headed the reception committee.

Met by Saddam

JN2407125390 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Baghdad this morning on a visit to our country. He was accorded an official welcome headed by President Leader Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted] Baghdad Voice of the Masses

Official Round of Talks Held

JN2407131690 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn and his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a round of official talks in which they discussed the solid fraternal bilateral relations and the new developments in the Arab arena. The talks took place in the spirit of brotherhood and friendship that joins the two fraternal presidents. They also discussed Arab issues and issues of mutual interest.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Revolution Command Council members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Also attending were Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the Iraqi ambassador in Cairo.

On the fraternal Egyptian side, the talks were attended by members of President Mubarak's accompanying delegation: 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Usama al-Baz, head of the President's Office for Political Affairs and first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry; and the Egyptian ambassador in Baghdad.

Another round of bilateral talks was also held between leader President Saddam Husayn and his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Departs After 'Few Hours'

JN2407142090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1338 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Baghdad this afternoon concluding a visit to our country lasting a few hours.

President Saddam Husayn accompanied his brother President Husni Mubarak in an official motorcade from his place of residence to the airport, where he was accorded an official sendoff by President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Commentary Attacks Kuwait's Oil Pricing Policy

JN2207162190 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1220 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] No one disagrees that Iraq has sustained severe damage and huge losses as a result of Kuwait's policy. At the same time, the other Arab oil-producing countries and the sisterly states that receive aid from the Arab oil-producing countries have also suffered similar damage and losses. These financial and economic hardships mean in the language of politics that Kuwait's behavior is unpatriotic and contradicts the need to invest and employ Arab oil wealth in the interest of our pan-Arab causes to safeguard the Arab nation's dignity.

Despite the serious consequences of Kuwait's policy, officials in this country insist on ignoring these results and maintain complete silence about them. Meanwhile, they continue to boast about their so-called generous aid. Yes, generous aid, as they put it. We don't know where that generous aid was when we were confronting the fierce eight-year aggression and waging war in defense of the Arab nation.

Although Iraq offered rivers of the blood of its righteous sons in defense of the Arab nation's sovereignty, dignity, and security, the aid which Iraq received from Kuwait was in the form of loans that are still registered as a debt on Iraq. Dear listeners, this aid has been suspended since 1982, when the financial and economic crisis escalated in Iraq, when the oil exports stopped, and when the war's burdens and requirements increased. At that time, the Kuwaiti Government halted its loans to Iraq.

During the Baghdad summit leader President Saddam Husayn explained in simple, clear terms the meaning of the suspect Kuwaiti policy. He said that it was a kind of war against Iraq. What Kuwait has done constitutes an aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation because its oil policy is designed to weaken Iraq's ability to confront the U.S.-Zionist threats and to prevent it from preserving the balance of power, which it has achieved at a very dear price, especially since Iraq is still suffering from the war's remnants—severe losses and the collapse of its principal revenues and those of the Arab nation.

Kuwait's aggression against Iraq was twofold. On one hand, it committed aggression against Iraq by stealing Iraq's oil wealth from the al-Rumaylah oil field. The price of oil withdrawn by Kuwait from Iraq's al-Rumaylah oil field, taking into account the actual prices from 1980 to 1990, amounts to $2.4 billion. On the other hand, the Kuwaiti Government wants to destroy the Iraqi economy by creating an oil glut. This means that it wants to weaken and harm Iraq at a time when it is exposed to fierce U.S.- Zionist threats as a result of its firm pan-Arab position in defending Arab rights.

Dear listener, the Kuwaiti Government's insistence on carrying out that policy despite entreatments, clarifications, and warnings has one meaning: This government is deliberately working to destroy Iraq's economy by implementing a policy drawn up by Washington. Under this policy, Washington will protect those who execute that policy. The Kuwaiti Government's position is worse than that. Not only has it implemented this flagrant U.S.-Zionist policy but it also perpetrated a deliberate, planned encroachment on Iraqi territories by establishing police stations and military and oil installations in these territories.

We do not know how Kuwait can claim that Iraq has encroached on Kuwaiti territory and dug oil wells on it. The Kuwaiti Government appears to have forgotten that everyone knows that the al-Rumaylah oil field is an Iraqi oil field from one end to the other. Everyone also knows that over the past 10 years Iraq has been preoccupied with defending its territories and protecting Kuwait and others, not with encroaching on Kuwaiti territories. Is this the brotherhood they are taking about?

While Iraq was preoccupied with repulsing the aggression, Kuwait trespassed on Iraq's territory and usurped its oil. While Iraq was confronting the most dangerous U.S.-Zionist threats against the Arab nation, Kuwait tried to flood the oil market, reduce the oil price, and weaken the Iraqi economy. The Kuwaiti Government claims it extended generous aid to Iraq, whereas this aid consisted of loans that were suspended in 1982 and which we are required to repay. Is this brotherhood?

Papers Comment on Dispute With Kuwait, UAE

Criticize Kuwaiti Minister

JN2307131090 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 23, INA—AL-QADISIYAH newspaper today exposed the direct conspiratorial role played by Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, Kuwaiti foreign minister, in sabotaging relations with Iraq and implementing the Zionist and imperialist designs against it.

A paper editorial here today said that Sabah al-Ahmad implements the American policy in Kuwait and was colluding since the beginning in this conspiracy and said that brethren in the Arab Gulf and the entire Arab nation have not blamed us after being surprised over the huge dangerous information we had disclosed in the premeditated conspiring performed by the Kuwaiti Government against Iraq which had sacrificed over eight years funds and martyrs in defence of the Arab nation dignity and sovereignty and especially in defence of the Gulf and Kuwait in particular.

The daily added that rulers of Kuwait work for weakening Iraq economically and considered the very small financial aids extended to Iraq as debts and demanded their repayment at a time of Iraq's needs for such funds to confront its external and internal financial requirements.

It added that suspicious stances of the Kuwaiti rulers were linked with a big conspiracy against Iraq and it was our national and moral task to inform our people of the requirements needed by Iraq and expose those responsible for it and also to tell the Kuwaitis who was the owner of right and who was conspiring against that right because we are all part of the Arab nation.

The paper stressed that after all efforts failed in making the conspirators back down from implementing their crimes and also failed to urge the Kuwaiti foreign minister and those like him who colluded in conspiracy, it was our task to uncover realities despite being bitter and painful before all good people.

It added that we tried with all means to uncover the grave consequences of such plots but the conspirators and corrupted did not resort to the course of right.

The paper further said that Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad started attempts to weaken Crown Prince and Premier Sa'd al-'Abdallah when he deprived him from the responsibility entrusted to him for resolving outstanding issues with Iraq and clearly announced that he was responsible and not Sa'd al-'Abdallah of this issue. [sentence as received]

It pointed out that Sabah al-Ahmad when he assumed that responsibility resorted to manipulation for keeping conditions as they are without solution and to make others believe that there was a problem and consequently enable him to play his open conspiratorial role as an agent of the United States.

The paper further said that the Kuwaiti foreign minister attempted to internationalise the issue and distancing it from the Arab framework by submitting a memorandum on outstanding questions between Iraq and Kuwait to the Security Council and the U.N. secretary general for implementing the role entrusted to him in the imperialist conspiracy by showing that keeping American fleets in the Arab Gulf was justified.

It stressed that suspicious presence of American fleets coincides during this stage with the Zionist designs aiming at striking Iraq.

It further added that continued statements by Americans and Zionist rulers during this stage exposes dimensions of the conspiratorial design and complicity of Sabah al-Ahmad and his suspicious policy in it.

Another Iraqi paper AL-'IRAQ described conspiring against Iraq as part of an American design and said that Iraq was forced to expose the realities and dimensions of the suspicious conspiring against it.

The daily said Arab brethren and friends were surprised at the volume of aggression and its objectives from the side of some brethren who continued deceiving their people and the Arab nation of their stances and allegations of supporting Iraq and extending to it alleged generous aids.

The Iraqi paper stressed that Iraq worked for containing all harmful trends against it with all diplomatic and national brotherly means and endeavoured to demonstrate its keenness over the genuinity [as received] of national relations with the Kuwaiti people.

It said that it seems that Sabah al-Ahmad has pledged for his masters the Americans to carry on the effective implementation of their evil designs and carrying on harmful acts against Iraq.

The paper pointed out that Iraq was well aware of the reality of the suspicious links of Sabah al-Ahmad and the nature of the subversive American role implemented in the region.

It charged the Kuwaiti foreign minister with attempting with all means to form the Kuwaiti Government instead of current Premier Sa'd al-'Abdallah so that he could implement the American policy in the region and to drag the Kuwaiti Government for carrying out his subversive conspiratorial role. Failing to do that, it pointed out, he proceeded to play the card of the economic war against the people of Kuwait and the people of Iraq which consequently pool against the vital economic interests of the Arab nation. The paper further said that Sabah al-Ahmad exploited every opportunity to prove for America that he was its faithful man in the region and the guardian for implementing its overt and covert aggressive plans.

'Conspiracy' Against Iraq, Arabs

JN2107082890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0535 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has described the unbalanced and irresponsible act carried out by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as a conspiracy not only against Iraq but also against the Arab nation and pan-Arab security. In its editorial, AL-QADISIYAH, the mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, says that the behavior of Kuwait and the UAE is in harmony with imperialist, American, and Zionist interests aimed at interfering with regional stability and security and igniting wars in the region.

AL-QADISIYAH says: The entire world knows that Kuwait and the UAE are not in need of money or capital to increase oil production or reduce oil prices. The purpose is to create a new conspiracy against Iraq and to strangle its economy and basic resource, oil, in order to achieve the objective set for them; namely, to bring Iraq's economy to its knees and to obstruct its pan-Arab role. This is the objective of the Arab nation's enemies.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Our response to this campaign of slanders is the following: It is very strange for the Kuwaiti memorandum [to the Arab League] to note so-called Iraqi violations inside Kuwaiti territory while Kuwait knows full well that Iraq was preoccupied with the war, its military forces were on the confrontation lines with the enemy, and no Iraqi forces were present on the border with Kuwait. Where did the violations come from, and how was this depicted in the Kuwaiti memorandum?

With regard to exploiting the al-Rumailah oil field in Kuwaiti territory, we would like to recall and affirm that the al-Rumailah oil field is one hundred per cent in Iraqi territory, and any exploitation of the oil in this oil field by Kuwait is a violation of Iraqi rights that cannot be ignored.

AL-QADISIYAH says: Saddam Husayn's Iraq, which stood up against the most brutal aggression to which the eastern flank of the Arab nation has ever been exposed, defended the Arab nation with all its strength for the eight years of this fierce war, triumphed in the war and emerged from it lofty and strong, continued its noble march, and acheived great scientific achievements, can stand up to this or any other conspiracy. And if Kuwait or any other party is trying to encroach on this great role assumed by Iraq on behalf of the Arab nation, history will record this for us and for all Arabs and will underscore the reward that Iraq received from its brothers. Everybody will be held accountable for his actions and our judge will be the Arab masses. [passage omitted]

Concluding, AL-QADISIYAH says: Kuwait's and the UAE's behavior constitutes a new conspiracy to undermine the importance of the resolutions issued by the extraordinary Arab summit and to place obstacles at the major turning point on the path of Arab awakening and solidarity.

Minister Termed U.S. 'Tool'

JN2307133190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the Iraqi leadership is unique in terms of principles, policies, and stances, and that it is known for its wisdom, patience, and cleverness. Judging by the astonishing information it has received, the Iraqi leadership's patience is splendid, the Iraqi newspaper says. Nobody expected the Kuwaiti Government to aim all these treacherous stabs at Iraq under these grim circumstances. Whoever expected that the aid which Kuwait boasted it gave to Iraq in the gloomy days of the [Iranian] aggression would become debts recorded on Iraq? Whoever expected that these debts [as received] would have stopped in 1982—during the darkest years of the aggression? Whoever expected the Kuwaiti Government to sidestep the cancellation of these debts when Iraq asked for this—in a brotherly spirit—more than a year ago? Was Iraq defending itself during the eight years of the war, or was it defending the entire Arab nation, its security, and its dignity, as well as the Arab Gulf, the Gulf states, and the wealth of the Gulf states—rulers and citizens? [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that it is our duty to expose the agent Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad and his ilk to the good people in Kuwait and the Arab nation. The paper stresses that Sabah al-Ahmad played a vicious role in the damage inflicted on Iraq by the Kuwaiti Government. He turned into a tool to implement the American policy in Kuwait, including the undermining of Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations. Today, he has become the focal point of the conspiracy implemented by the Kuwaiti Government against Iraq and the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi newspaper stresses that whoever describes the offenses committed by the Kuwaiti Government against Iraq as a summer cloud is a tool implementing a substantial American plot not only against Iraq, but also against Kuwait and the entire Arab nation. American and Zionist statements are being made continuously in preparation for direct interference in our regional affairs under the pretext of protecting the friends and maintaining security and stability.

The paper says that this is part of the bitter fact which should be disclosed to the Iraqis, Kuwaitis, and the entire Arab nation. It would be more painful to remain silent about this fact.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that, after all, neither whitewashing nor appeasements through empty statements on fraternity and solidarity will yield any results.

Kuwait, UAE Acts 'Aggression'

JN2107110090 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, July 21, INA—[passage omitted] Another Iraqi paper AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed that acts of Kuwait and the UAE Governments were unjust and a direct aggression on Iraq and the Arab nation.

It said that the suspicious oil policy pursued by these two governments aim at destroying the Iraqi economy and pushing it to the verge of bankruptcy. The Iraqi paper further said that the policy of flooding oil markets with excess quantities of oil leads to the decline of its prices a matter that would inflict harm to all oil producing countries and in their forefront, the Arab countries.

It pointed out that decline of oil prices between the years 1981- 1990 caused the Arab countries the losing of 500 billion dollars, the share of Iraq was 89 billion dollars

It added that as a result of this suspicious policy, Iraq's losses during this year were estimated at several billions of dollars which could have been used for repaying its debts and ensuring better life for its people which have offered big sacrifices.

The Iraqi paper added that this subversive policy was not master minded by the two governments but rather was part of a pure Zionist- American plan which was after harming Iraq.

The evidence of that was the United States urgent announcement of its readiness to protect its friends in the Gulf soon after Iraq raised its voice over this unjust policy and after the visit of the Zionist war minister of the United States to discuss Iraq threats to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH on Oil Policy

JN2007140290 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad , 20 Jul (INA)—[passage omitted] AL-THAWRAH daily said today that what Kuwait and the Emirates have done constitutes an aggression on Iraq and the Arab nation for their oil policies of such aim at weakening Iraq's capability in facing the American-Zionist threats. [sentence as received]

In its editorial the paper has further said that what Kuwait and the Emirates have done is to prevent Iraq from preserving the balance in power which it has achieved by the most expensive costs particularly that Iraq is still suffering sequels of the war and its high losses.

The paper has made it clear that for several months and at the time when Iraq was facing the most ferocious campaigns and threats by imperialism and Zionism and rising its voice in defence of the Arab nation rights and major national interest and warning against dangers of the American presence in the Gulf, the Governments of Kuwait and the Emirates started pursuing a dangerous and put-up an irresponsible policy aimed at reducing prices of oil without any justification contrary to the Arab nation interest and requirements of her national security. [sentence as received]

The paper has also said that despite Iraq's attempts and contacts with the sisterly countries to make Kuwait and the Emirates back down from continuing this iniquitous policy that led to dangerously slump [as received] in oil prices and inflicted purposeful harm on Iraq and other oil producing countries, these two governments are still persistent on maintaining this painful policy which contradicts the simplest concepts of national brotherhood.

AL-THAWRAH daily has stressed that Kuwait's aggression on Iraq was dual. On the one hand it aggresses on Iraq by stealing its oil wealth from al-Rumaylah field as the value of oil the Kuwaiti Government has drawn from the Iraqi al-Rumaylah oil field by this way and according to the proven prices between 1980-1990 amounts to 2400 million dollars [as received].

On the other hand it intends designedly to inflict collapse on the Iraqi economy by flooding the oil market with surplus of oil production. All this means that they are aiming at weakening Iraq and harming it at the time when Iraq is exposed to the most dangerous American-Zionist threat owing to its honourable pan-Arab stances in defence of the Arab right.

Assail U.S. Position

JN2107111990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH says that the behavior of Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] is antinational and contradicts the need to invest and employ Arab oil resources in the interest of pan-Arab causes to safeguard the nation's interests, dignity, and security. In the second part of serialized editorials under the headline "This Is Not How Iraq Is Rewarded," AL-THAWRAH says: In the language of numbers, Iraq's message to the Arab League secretary general noted that a drop of one dollar in the price of oil will inflict on Iraq losses estimated at 1 billion dollars annually. And as the price of oil dropped several dollars below $18 as a result of the destructive policy followed by the governments of Kuwait and the UAE, this means that Iraq has lost billions this year. This takes place at a time when Iraq is in financial straits from causes that are not hidden from anybody; they are the cost of the legitimate defense of Iraq's territory, security, and holy places as well as of the Arabs' territory, security, and sovereignty.

AL-THAWRAH adds: As a result of the policy of Kuwait and the UAE, Iraq and other Arab oil-producing countries and the sisterly states that receive aid from the Arab oil countries have sustained huge losses and damage. These huge financial and economic losses mean in the language of politics that these two governments' behavior is antinational and contradicts the need to invest and employ Arab oil resources in the interest of our pan-Arab causes to safeguard the nation's interests, dignity, and security. Despite these serious results of the policy of Kuwait and the UAE, officials in these two countries insist on ignoring these results and maintain complete silence about them. Meanwhile, they continue to boast about their so-called generous aid. The paper adds that, since officials in Kuwait insist on speaking about and focusing on the issue of aid, we would like to add a story here that shows the generosity of Kuwaiti officials and the reality of the aid about which they boast. In 1986 an Iraqi official visited Kuwait seeking aid. Shaykh [Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah] told the Iraqi envoy: "You want to rehabilitate Iraq and destroy Kuwait."

Officials in Kuwait continue to speak about Kuwait's support for, and solidarity with, Iraq during the war and about exposing its interests and citizens to danger. Meanwhile, they do not recall Iraq's public support for, and solidarity with, Kuwait and its frequent assertions that Kuwait's security derives from Iraq's security. Why do they not ask themselves what could have happened to Kuwait and themselves had Iraq not formed an impregnable dam against the flood that threatened to destroy Kuwait?. Within this context, when the Kuwaiti Government informed the UN secretary general and the Security Council of the differences between Iraq and Kuwait it did not show any kind of Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH adds that the Kuwaiti memorandum [to the Arab League] proposes the formation of an Arab committee to determine the borders between the two countries and end the current problems. Iraqi officials paid many visits to Kuwait for coordination and to decide all matters, contrary to what officials in Kuwait have alleged. However, their excuse was always that the border issue was transferred from one official to another in the government. Of course, they did this to evade a solution to the issue.

The paper adds that in addition to all this, they speak about the need to abide by consultation, understanding, and dialogue, forgetting that Iraq explained the dangers of this oil policy to officials in Kuwait and the UAE more than once. It also tried to warn them of the consequences of this policy and its serious dimensions and that leader President Saddam Husayn spoke about this issue at the Baghdad summit with clarity and fraternal spirit. Despite these facts, the governments of Kuwait and the UAE have not hesitated to follow this harmful policy nor have they stopped it.

AL-THAWRAH asks: There have been many more Iraqi envoys sent to Kuwait in the past months than Kuwaiti envoys to Iraq during the same period. Does this not mean that Iraq was the one that took the path of consultation and dialogue and that this yielded no results with the officials in Kuwait and the UAE, to the point that it became impossible to remain silent about their dangerous policies, which have inflicted great damage on Iraq and the Arab nation?

The paper adds that, at a time when Kuwaiti officials are still obstructing the air route between Iraq and Kuwait, a few days ago they opened a maritime route between Iran and Kuwait while the issue of the Arabian Gulf security has not yet been decided. What does this behavior mean? And how can it be explained in light of the continuation of the state of no war, no peace and the lack of a comprehensive and lasting peace agreement between the two countries [Iraq and Iran] until now?

AL-THAWRAH touches on the background of the U.S. stance, saying that we were astonished at the reaction expressed by the U.S. State Department spokesman, who said that the United States is strongly committed to support its friends in the Gulf. What is the story of this strong U.S. commitment? Does this statement not show that there has been prior U.S.-Kuwaiti coordination that Iraq is unaware of? Once again we say to those who rewarded Iraq for its principles on brotherhood by stabbing it in the back with a poisoned dagger that this is not how Iraq is rewarded. Treason and stabbing in the back are not Arab traits.

Government 'Staying Out' of Iraq-Kuwait Tension

TA2407094390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 90 p 1

[Report by Ben Lynfield and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said last night that the government is staying out of the regional controversy over recent Iraqi threats against Kuwait.

"That is a matter for the Arab League to take care of," Shamir told THE JERUSALEM POST at a celebration in Herzliyya marking Egypt's National Day.

Asked if the formation of the narrow Likud government had affected Israel's ties with Egypt, Shamir said, "There are no tensions. Relations with Egypt are correct." Shamir called on the government of President Husni Mubarak to "be more active" in advancing peace between Israel and other Arab countries.

Earlier in the day Foreign Minister David Levi met with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni in honour of the Egyptian holiday.

Basyuni said last night he is "still optimistic" that Levi will play a role in advancing peace efforts.

He added that he had received no word yet on who will succeed Shim'on Shamir as Israel's next ambassador to Cairo. [passage omitted]

[A similar report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Shefi Gabay on page A2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 24 July notes that "public leaders in the territories decided to boycott the reception given by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni on the occasion of Egypt's national day. The decision reflects the tense relations between the PLO and Cairo." On the other hand, "all Israeli Arab leaders showed up. Shaykh Tawfiq 'Asliya, the chief mufti and religious judge of Israel's Arabs, said he opposed the decision of leaders of the intifadah to boycott Egypt because of that country's attacks against 'Arafat."]

Three West European Foreign Ministers Meet Levi

Discuss Human Rights, Peace

TA2307201590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi tonight conferred with his counterparts from Italy, Ireland, and Luxembourg. The Luxembourg foreign minister said in the meeting that Israel is violating human rights in the territories, and that scenes of the intifadah screened on European television are hard to take. Minister Levi responded that no other nation is so sensitive to human rights and that any pressure on Israel would bring war closer.

According to Minister Levi, the PLO is preventing progress in the peace process because its aim is to destroy the State of Israel. He regretted that Europe believes that pressure on Israel would convince it to do things that would endanger its existence.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that at a news conference after the meeting, the Italian foreign minister said that in Europe's view the PLO is the right partner for direct or indirect negotiations because it represents the majority of Palestinians.

Further on EC 'Troika' Meeting

TA2407045890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] In one hour Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is to meet in his office with the foreign ministers of Italy, Ireland, and Luxembourg, leaders of the European Council of Ministers known as the troika. The atmosphere was tense last night, as Foreign Minister David Levi and his European counterparts agreed to put off their differences until later talks. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Foreign Minister David Levi and his counterparts from Italy, Luxembourg, and Ireland talked longer than expected, agreed to disagree, and remained diplomatic about their differences although the tension was obvious. There apparently was at least one flare-up between Levi and Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Jacques Poos over the issue of human rights.

Foreign Minister Poos charged Israel with not respecting the Palestinians' rights, and spoke of the scene shown on television of how Israeli soldiers treat the Palestinians of the territories. Levi responded that he is sorry Europe seems to think that by pressuring Israel it can force Jerusalem to take steps that would endanger the Jewish state. Weakening Israel, Levi said, will lead to war and give the upper hand to those who want to destroy Israel.

At a news conference, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said Europe does not intend to pressure Israel, but officials here must understand that the Europeans are closely affected by the fate of the Middle East. Levi called the PLO a terrorist organization. Foreign Minister de Michelis disagreed.

[De Michelis] And, on this there is an objective diversion with this position of the Israeli Government. The European position is that we do consider that the only possible direct or indirect interlocutors from the Palestinian side is the PLO.

[Ze'ev] The Italian foreign minister also did not rule out European economic sanctions against Israel with the approaching 1992 European economic union in which Israel would like to play an important role.

[De Michelis] We are strongly advocating the utilization of 1992 as a good occasion for a jumping quality in the cooperation in the Mediterranean region. And, Israel has a very special place in it; has and will continue to have. The other scenario is a negative one: The situation will deteriorate, tensions will arise or continue to exist, and cooperation—economic, cultural, or social cooperation—will become more and more difficult.

[Ze'ev] The Europeans did not raise the issue of a delegation to provide humanitarian aid to Palestinians. They said the issue was still under discussion within the European Community. It is one of the many issues that will confront Foreign Minister Levi in mid-September when he meets with all 12 EC foreign ministers in Brussels. [end recording]

Investments in Territories Viewed

TA2407093890 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jul 90 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi called on EC leaders to coordinate their investments in the territories with Israel. He was referring to the EC proposal to allocate $8.5 billion to eight Mediterranean countries, including Israel, over the next five years.

Levi proposed the construction of a water desalination plant, with some of the sweet water produced placed at Israel's disposal and the remainder going to Jordan.

Another idea discussed was the establishment of a Middle East electricity network which would connect Turkey, Syria, and Egypt, and eventually include Israel as well.

The visiting EC ministers from Italy, Ireland, and Luxembourg did not raise their request to set up an EEC representation to deal with Palestinian affairs. When asked about this during their news conference, the ministers replied that the issue would be discussed later on the working team level.

Finance Minister Moda'i yesterday hosted the visiting EC ministers for a work meeting. Moda'i informed the ministers that Israel demands the lifting of European sanctions, and anticipates the resumption of economic cooperation and a more widespread implementation of the free trade agreement. The finance minister called on the European ministers to push for appropriate legislation against the Arab boycott—which contravenes EC regulations. He added that the EC should separate the economic and political aspects of its relations with Israel.

[Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 24 July in a similar report by the political correspondent on pages 1 and 2 adds that "Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres yesterday met Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, head of the troika of foreign ministers currently visiting Israel on behalf of the EC.

"Peres told the Italian minister that, in his opinion, peace in the Middle East should be pursued in two directions: from the political standpoint, and on the basis of Middle East economic trends.

"Peres added that the United States has taken responsibility for the political aspect, and that Europe should operate on the economic level.

"Peres told his guest that he considers Europe a central element in the efforts to establish a common market in the Middle East along the lines of the EEC. In his opinion, the setting up of such a market will greatly facilitate the progress of the peace process in our region.

"The visiting minister told Peres that Europe is indeed willing to invest great sums of money in the Middle East, and that they had recently discussed the matter with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in order to increase the coordination and cooperation between Europe and the United States in furthering the peace process in the Middle East. The Italian minister expressed the wish to maintain permanent contacts with the Labor Party, and Mr. Peres responded in the affirmative."]

EC Ministers Meet Shamir

TA2407074290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The meeting between the prime minister and the three EC foreign ministers ended in Jerusalem a short while ago. Yitzhaq Shamir reiterated Israel's commitment to furthering the peace process in the region on the basis of the Israeli Government's peace initiative. Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

Upon the conclusion of their meeting with the prime minister the troika of visiting three EC ministers refused to address the [journalists'] microphones and rushed to the airport. The three EC leaders made it clear to Shamir that they would like to see progress in the peace process, something that would permit a closer level of cooperation between Europe and Middle East countries.

Prime Minister Shamir repeatedly stressed that peace is Israel's goal in the region. We heard Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser:

[Begin Pazner recording] The prime minister stressed that this government is committed to the peace process and to the peace initiative, and will do all in its power to further the process. The prime minister also explained at length why Israel opposes the inclusion of the PLO in the process, because it is a terrorist organization whose aim is the destruction of the State of Israel. [end recording]

Shamir also raised the problem of European anti-Semitism and asked them to act in their respective countries to prevent this worrisome phenomenon. These are the first details of the prime minister's meeting with the three EC ministers, who are due to take off in approximately 30 minutes for a meeting with the heads of the Arab League and the PLO in Tunisia.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 24 July adds that "our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the foreign ministers of Italy, Ireland,

and Luxembourg reiterated their belief that the PLO should be included in the process, and that an international conference should be convened. They pointed out, however, that the EC would be willing to accept any other proposal, as long as it furthers the peace process."]

Levi Interviewed on EC Stance

TA2407055090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Foreign Minister David Levi.

[Levi] Good morning.

[Einstein] Beyond the agreement in principle, which I imagine you reached with the three visiters representing the EC regarding the need to further the peace process in our region—is there also any agreement as to the practical steps necessary in order to do so?

[Levi] First of all, the discussions were held in a really friendly atmosphere. The position taken by the EC on the Middle East conflict is well known. Nevertheless, our talks were very open, and we made it clear that the attitude prevailing in several European countries would not help; pressure or sanctions on Israel will be counterproductive and achieve nothing. They commented on this issue and for the first time promised that they would not force their opinion on Israel neither by sanctions nor by pressure; they have come to talk and are interested in maintaining a continuous and open dialogue. Israel is a democratic country. We responded that we desire peace more than any other element—and certainly no less than them—but we are the people who live here and must decide our own fate, and considering the wall of emnity and hostility which surrounds us, we expect Europe to exert pressure [changes thought]...it is the region which is today witnessing a new era; walls are falling down, two totally different political ideologies are holding a dialogue; yesterday's enemies, military organizations such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact...a new era has begun. Europe has decided that every conflict should be resolved peacefully, while we here are still obliged to continually maintain our military strength so that the armed and extreme forces in the region will not achieve their goal. Israel is in danger. Therefore, we expect Europe to work on the Arab countries it maintains economic and other contacts with, so that the wall of emnity might fall and they would enter direct negotiations with Israel. This is an elementary matter and does not constitute any extreme demand on our side.

[Einstein] But Mr. Levi, it appears you had a hard time trying to convince them, for example, that the PLO could not be a partner for negotiations.

[Levi] This position is well known and is not new in the EC. Nevertheless, they publicly stated during the news conference—and certainly in private talks with us—that they would be willing to accept any idea as long as it comprises a chance to further peace. They are not insisting on the PLO. We showed them that their trust in the PLO, which has promised to relinquish terror, was merely exploited and will be a source of embarrassment for them in the future. Their dialogue with the PLO may also lead to war. Therefore, they are not trying to force us to adopt their position, and the ministers stated that they are willing to give Israel and the United States a chance to implement a peace process along lines acceptable to Israel.

[Einstein] The bottom line, Mr. Levi: Do you think that after the talks they held with you—I understand they are meeting the prime minister this morning—they will keep their promise that economic sanctions will not be leveled against Israel as a result of the current disagreements regarding the way to secure progress in the peace process.

[Levi] First of all, they themselves said that the talks constituted a breakthrough, because the EC is interested in holding an open and sincere dialogue with Israel in all fields. We will nurture these contacts, keep them updated, and maintain all fields which bind us and Europe together. The climate of relations is good. We helped them understand Israel's fundamental problems. An Israeli delegation, headed by me, will meet all the EC leaders in September. We will then be able to review all our common problems. Israel has some demands from Europe to prevent partiality in certain fields, in which we are discriminated against. At the same time, we should praise their decision regarding their declared future action to cancel that sorry UN resolution which equated Zionism with racism. They take a tough stance in their condemnation of antisemitism, and in the steps they have taken, which have already borne fruit and will continue to do so, to secure the immigration to Israel of our brothers from the Soviet Union and from other repressed countries. I am optimistic regarding what I believe is a sincere and fruiful dialogue. We will do everything to make sure that this close relationship will grow even warmer.

European-Palestinian Chamber of Commerce Set Up

TA2407092690 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Jul 90 p 2

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] A European-Palestinian chamber of commerce was set up recently. Its main objective will be to accelerate the granting of bills of lading for goods exported from the territories to Europe.

A high-level Palestinian industrialist in the territories told Civil Administration officials that the chamber's members include Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, AL-FAJR editor Hana Sinyurah, and businessmen Mahir al-Masri and Suhayl Jid'an.

An East Jerusalem figure told security officials that he intends to confer with the EEC ambassador to Israel to discuss ways to enable the inhabitants of the territories to import directly from Europe into the West Bank and Gaza in view of the success of direct exports to Europe.

He noted that the question of imports would be more complex than exports "particularly in view of the reciprocal ties and free trade between Europe and Israel and the expected Israeli opposition because of the repercussions on the Israeli market."

On this and other issues, leaders in the territories pin great hopes on the permanent EC representative to the territories who will begin working in November 1990. The EC has already decided that its ambassador to the territories will be stationed in East Jerusalem.

Syrian Official Interviewed on Egypt Dialogue

TA2007160790 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 20 Jul 90 p 10

[Interview with unnamed "senior member of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's entourage," by Smadar Peri, "this week in Alexandria"]

[Text] "As far as I am concerned, Israel can worry as much as it wants that the presidents of Syria and Egypt might have met in private this week to prepare the next war against Israel. Israel deserves it." The speaker is a senior member of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's entourage, who visited Egypt last week. The man, who holds an influential position in Damascus, willingly acceded to my request to interview him for an Israeli paper. We held two lengthy conversations in Alexandria.

The first part of the interview took place in front of a large throng of curious onlookers, who watched us from afar. From time to time somebody brought us cups of black coffee. The second talk took place late at night over the phone. My Syrian interlocuter conditioned the talks on my promise to keep his identity a secret.

[Peri] You were sitting with the members of the Syrian delegation a few minutes ago. I came up to your table, presented myself, and you immediately asked me to join the company. Everyone else disappeared within minutes. Are you not afraid of getting into trouble when people find out that you spoke to an Israeli journalist?

["Unnamed" Syrian official] I am interested in talking to you. I am curious to hear, for example, what you people think of President al-Asad. I admit that we do not have many opportunities to get a firsthand impression of the Israeli citizen's opinion of us.

[Peri] Why do you care?

[Syrian official] I have to make myself clear. It would be wrong to interpret our conversation, and allowing myself to be seen with you in public, to mean that Israel and Syria are about to start peace negotiations tomorrow.

[Peri] President al-Asad was careful to tell all the VIP's who visited him this year, and then went on to Jerusalem, that he is interested in a peace settlement with Israel. That is what he told former U.S. President Carter, and American senators...

[Syrian official, interrupting]...And your media immediately went wild. Carter had just left Shamir's office, and your newspapers were already full of headlines about peace between Syria and Israel. But we liked it.

[Peri] We believe that if al-Asad was not interested in conveying a message of peace to Israel he would not have said what he did.

[Syrian official] That is true. President Hafiz al-Asad, just like Shamir, carefully weighs every word and statement he makes. He only says what is necessary; there are no slips of the tongue.

[Peri] So far, you have mentioned Prime Minister Shamir twice. How is he perceived in Damascus? What do you think of him?

[Syrian official] I will give you two answers: we consider the Shamir, Arens, Levi government to be a catastrophe. This is a government that will plunge the region into a new war, that will cost everyone dearly. Shamir strikes us as a stubborn, wily politician, just like you picture our president. Shamir, in our estimation, does not want peace.

[Peri] What do you think of Shamir's appeal to Mubarak to secure a meeting between himself and al-Asad in Egypt?

[Syrian official] We scrutinized every word in the interview (given by Shamir to the Egyptian weekly MAYO four weeks ago, S.P.), and I am ready to swear that Shamir knew in advance that al-Asad would not issue any response to this proposal. We also knew that Shamir was trying to kill two birds with one stone: Mubarak and al-Asad.

This was not serious. This statement was designed to portray Shamir as a peace-lover for the Americans. Even they, however, saw through the trick at once. Mubarak did not respond to the suggestion and was angered by Shamir's ploy. We preferred to ignore it.

[Peri] If so, we are back at the starting point. Nothing has changed in Syria.

[Syrian official] That is not true. The al-Asad of 1990 is not the al-Asad of 20 years ago.

[Peri] Where is the change then? Your president mended fences with Mubarak this week, after a long split over Egypt's peace agreements with Israel. He refused to land in Cairo, however, because Israel's embassy is situated there, and the inscription "6 October" was embossed on his plane, to remind everyone of the Yom Kippur War.

[Syrian official] President al-Asad, like Mubarak, like al-Sadat in his time, has great respect for the war of 1973.

After all, it was al-Sadat who said that if not for the Arab victory in the 1973 war, he would not have been able to launch a peace initiative.

[Peri] Al-Sadat came to Damascus just before going to Jerusalem and asked al-Asad to join him.

[Syrian official] Al-Asad warned al-Sadat not to make a separate peace with Israel, and he will not repeat al-Sadat's mistake. On this matter, there is no change in Syria. There will be no separate peace between Israel and Syria.

[Peri] If so, then what has changed in Damascus?

[Syrian official] I will answer you with a question: And what has changed on your side? The entire world is undergoing incredible political and social changes. What is happening in the Israeli Government? Nothing. You are ossified, and refuse to change. Believe me, the way to a comprehensive and just peace between Israel and its neighbors is now clear, and you are treading water.

[Peri] From the talks held here this week I learned that Syria wants to get the Golan Heights back and conduct negotiations with Israel only within the framework of an international conference.

[Syrian official] You are correct. But I would like to expand the issue somewhat: Syria is ready to hold peace negotiations with Israel on the basis of the principle of "territories for peace." Is this a small matter? We are talking about a peace settlement. Negotiations, however, will not begin without an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the Golan Heights, just like you did in the Sinai Peninsula.

[Peri] Does Syria have a political plan which may appeal to the Israeli Government? The law which annexed the Golan Heights to Israel [in 1981] will be difficult to abrogate.

[Syrian official] I know. I can already hear the shouting in your Knesset, and in your government.

[Peri] The Israeli democratic system allows for differences of opinion.

[Syrian official] I have something to say about your democratic system. In Syria, we do not presume to call ourselves a democracy. It is no secret that Syria is not a democratic country. But you, I must say, have a funny democracy. We have been following your surveys and public opinion polls and have noticed that more than 54 percent of the public are prepared to conduct a dialogue with the PLO and obtain a comprehensive peace.

The Arab world has adopted a resolution on attaining peace through peaceful means. The Israeli citizen says "yes" to that, while your government persists in saying "no" and continues to do what it wants. What kind of a democracy is that? Why, you pride yourselves on being the only democracy in the Middle East! Where is the affinity between the citizen and his representative in the establishment? Why do Peace Now and the protest demonstrations have no influence?

Let me tell you how your democracy looks: The press may publish everything, but in the end your government does exactly what it wants. Some democracy....

[Peri] Where do you get your information about us?

[Syrian official] It is much easier now. There are foreign papers; tourists arrive after a visit to Israel and we talk to them; television airs mostly films about the intifadah, so you can imagine how you are portrayed in them. We also listen to your radio broadcasts, particularly the newsreels. Besides, those of us who should know things about you do. "The Israeli enemy" is a fact of life.

Let me tell you a secret: Within the framework of your Israeli "democracy," people take action to jam our television broadcasts. Why? Check at home. We know why.

[Peri] Perhaps you learned about us through the clandestine meetings which are rumored to take place between your men and ours?

[Syrian official] I do not know about such meetings. I wonder what the point is of meeting secretly when President al-Asad repeatedly announces in no uncertain terms that Syria would not negotiate directly with Israel. The negotiations between us will be held only within the framework of the international conference. We are in no rush with regard to the Golan Heights. We have waited this long; we can wait longer.

[Peri] We also have a common enemy: Saddam Husayn is no favorite of Jerusalem or Damascus.

[Syrian official] I have something to say about this, too. Israel is seen in Syria as trying forever to invent the "ugly face" of an Arab leader as an excuse for its flight from peace. Once it was President al-Nasir, whom you called "the great enemy." Then came al-Asad and later al-Qadhdhafi. Today the "great enemy" is Saddam Husayn. If you do not decide to change, you will have good reason for real fear.

[Peri] This represents the official Syrian line. I have not noticed even a single deviation.

[Syrian official] I agree.

[Peri] Then why do you insist on anonymity? If I publish your full name and title, your arguments will sound much more credible.

[Syrian official] One Israeli reporter recently jumped on our foreign minister, Faruq al-Shar', and asked him a question at a news conference in Paris. The publicity was very embarrassing. It is not our style, and as I said before: We never pretended to be a democracy.

Arrow Missile To Launch in 'Very Short Time'

TA2407060790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] All preparations are almost complete at the experimental launching site of the Arrow anti-missile missile. Our correspondent reports that the missile has already been placed on the launch pad, and the missile is expected to be launched in a very short time.

Arens Returns From Talks With Cheney on Arrow

TA2407091290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Defense Minister Moshe Arens returned yesterday from a brief visit in the United States during which he conferred with U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney. The minister's associates described the visit as "beneficial and good from Israel's point of view."

Arens and Cheney discussed issues pertaining to the strategic cooperation between the two countries and to the Middle East. The main topic of the talks was the continuation of the Arrow missile which is being jointly developed by the United States and Israel. A source close to the minister said that Israeli and U.S. working groups will soon begin drafting plans for the second phase of the Arrow project.

U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney accepted Arens' invitation to visit Israel. [passage omitted]

Commentary on U.S. 'Abandonment' of Camp David

TA2007095190 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Jul 90 p 7

[Commentary by Avner Regev: "To Abandon the Path of Confrontation"]

[Excerpt] Two poles characterize the scope of the relationship between Israel and the United States. One is the network of bilateral relations on the security level, which comprise a high level of understanding and strategic cooperation. This was evident recently during the visit to Israel of General Powell, head of the [U.S.] Joint Chiefs of Staff, who stated that Israel is the most reliable country in the Mediterranean basin. The second is the fabric of political relations, in which misunderstandings and disagreements crop up on a daily basis with every new statement.

Today, the leaders of the U.S. Administration and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir fundamentally and totally disagree on everything pertaining to the final settlement in the Middle East. President Bush and Secretary of State Baker today are more inclined to accept the Arab positions on the peace process, and oppose the Israeli position as presented by Shamir. The Americans view the evacuation of the territories and the establishment of a Palestinian authority as the final solution, while the Israelis oppose any territorial withdrawal and are only willing to confer personal autonomy—to the residents of the territories and to them only. Shamir has also added that before the start of negotiations on the permanent agreement, each side will be allowed to present its positions regarding the territorial issues that will be discussed following the period of autonomy.

Bush and Baker are running out of patience with the processes and tactics adopted by the prime minister. Shamir, for his part, suggests that the Americans take a long, hard look at their own actions before blaming him for the political deadlock and branding him with various stigmas.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office are furious that the United States has backtracked on the Camp David accords. Senior political circles consider this the reason for the present short circuit between Israel and the United States. Shamir's peace initiative is based on Camp David and constitutes a continuity of the autonomy talks held 10 years ago. The Americans' abandonment of Camp David only signifies, according to these circles, that the Washington administration and its signature cannot be trusted. Israel has proven to be the only element that is true to these accords, while Egypt and the United States are trying to shirk their commitment to the document.

Senior Likud officials hope that there are influential and high-ranking people within the U.S. Administration who would be willing to support Israel's stance on the peace process, even though this is not Bush's and Baker's position. These sources believe that just as the Americans are looking for members of the Israeli Government who subscribe to their point of view, like David Levi, Israel should also be seeking allies within the U.S. Administration who could protect Israel's positions and permit Jerusalem to get its viewpoint across to the general public.

Shamir is not willing to accept the U.S. assertion that one cannot discuss peace with the Arab countries in addition to pursuing the political process with the Palestinians, and he regards this as an attempt to force unacceptable positions on Israel. Shamir is not looking toward the end of the process right now, but is rather focusing on the various stages along the way, with the final result as yet still unknown.

Since continued good relations with the United States are a basic premise of the prime minister's, it is safe to assume that if the contacts currently under way between Israel and the United States do not bear the desired fruit, and if the Baker-Levi meeting does not lead to some progress, then Shamir will come out with a new peace initiative without the mediation and assistance of the United States in a bid to further the peace process with regard to both the Arab states and the Palestinians, and prevent the region's deterioration toward war.

Jerusalem takes a very serious view of the Iraqi president's statements, and the political echelon will not allow the defense establishment to voice any cynicism or show any complacency. The new initiative Shamir is preparing will try to meet the challenge Shamir presented Bush in his letter regarding the launching of negotiations with the Arab states, "despite the derision this suggestion received in Washington," and furnish a response to the war cries emitted by the Iraqi president. The Palestinian problem, according to prominent circles, is but one of several problems facing the region—and it is not even the major one. This must be understood in Washington. David Levi, whom the United States is counting on, will not deliver the goods without first receiving the government's blessing—or in other words, Shamir's endorsement—even if he believes that the total threat posed by the Arab countries and the danger of the entire region's plunging into war are just as great as the dangers inherent in not finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. Shamir and Levi are convinced that peace negotiations with the Arab states will help find an answer to the Palestinian problem, and will definitely not postpone its resolution, which is the attitude presently taken by Washington. [passage omitted]

Peres Hopes for 'Cooperation' in Labor Party

TA2307065490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Telephone interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Shalom Qital—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Qital] Mr. Peres, the question now is whether, after yesterday's race, there will be quiet in the Labor Party during the next year or two—that is, until the next elections—and whether the party will be able to organize properly when its upper echelons include not only Peres but also Yitzhaq Rabin, who may not have accepted his defeat, as well as additional candidates for the main office.

[Peres] The way you put it, one might imagine the problem is only one of aesthetics, but for me the question of one of ideology and of following the right path.

All those party members who tried to create an upset in the party live on myths detached from reality. They have taken it into their heads that public opinion polls are more important than everything else, but the fact is that they are worthless, and I will explain why. The political camp headed by the Labor Party has 55 mandates; the camp headed by the Likud has 47 mandates. Although this map is an almost permanent feature in the Israeli politics, people keep going over to hear what the 47 are saying, instead of going to the 55. We are constantly being told about pretense, embellishment, and cosmetics, about what the latest poll says and how we look in it, but a poll can be shattered in a single blow.

I believe in two things: A. The 55 constitute the largest camp in the State of Israel, which must be unified. B. The problem is not merely winning the elections, but also leading the country to peace. Suppose we emulate the Likud and win the elections; what good will it do the nation? One must believe in something, struggle for something, even when it is difficult, even when the path is long and arduous. I do not see myself either leading or guiding; I see myself preparing the way for the colossal undertaking of rescuing Israel from its afflictions and bringing the Jewish people to its second great chapter in history: a strong State of Israel in a peaceful and flourishing Middle East. We cannot be constantly busy with theory; we cannot run the state as if it were a grocery store on the northern axis, as if it were unconnected to the rest of the world. How can we go on like this? The Likud succeeded in scaring many of our party members into believing that Jerusalem is being taken away from us, that Tel Aviv is being taken away from us. No one will take them because we will not let them, and we will not let them because we are strong.

Israel could bring this region to great achievements. It could elevate this region to a higher level: from territorial conflict to scientific cooperation. I believe in this, and it is over this that I am waging my struggle. All the rest is just hot air.

[Qital] Mr. Peres, the rest may be hot air, but after the race, we are curious. Will you and Yitzhaq Rabin be able to work together?

[Peres] Those who know me know that I am not a vindictive or malicious person; I prefer cooperation. There is room for everyone: Yitzhaq Rabin, me, other colleagues. My winning the mandate yesterday does not mean I intended to smash other things. There is certainly room for the rise of young cadres. Look, several party members formed a group in the Knesset in the belief that they had a majority in the party. They did not. There are many new, young people who could do it. You know, a group of several new members worked with me for the first time in my life. They were in their twenties and thirties, and they were wonderful: clever, intelligent, gifted. They were not inferior to anyone at the top. Room must be made for such people as well.

[Qital] Mr. Peres, will you be the Labor Party's prime ministerial candidate in 1992?

[Peres] The Labor Party's candidate for the position of prime minister will be the peace process.

[Qital] Yes, but someone will have to represent that process.

[Peres] Well, if there is a better candidate than I, why not? I am not vying for position or for being number one or number two. It is time you and others realized that this struggle goes deeper than mere position. If I see that there is a young person or a new person to whom the party is willing to give its confidence, why not? Have I myself not experienced all the possible positions to date? This is not what interests me. What interests me stems from my experience and my beliefs: advancing the State of Israel toward its next goal. I learned this from David

Ben-Gurion and from history books: All the personal aspects are secondary to that goal. Those who do not understand that there are things more important than themselves are not worth very much.

[Qital] Mr. Peres, I was about to conclude this interview when I received today's YEDI'OT AHARONOT, which runs the following headline: Peres Intends To Remove Rabin From the Position of Second in Command.

[Peres] I have no such plans; I do not intend to compile lists, remove people, or take revenge. This report is totally unfounded; it is all fiction. On the contrary, I will try to introduce as much cooperation as possible into the party.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] You are welcome.

Labor Party To Hold Census, Reelect Institutions

TA2407085490 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul 90 p A2

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpt] The Labor Party will begin conducting a census of its members at the beginning of September which will last three months. At the end of it, all the party institutions will be reelected and reorganized. At the same time, the party will begin ideological discussions with a view to formulating the party's platform on foreign, security, and socioeconomic issues, summoning an ideological convention, and deciding on the format of the "primaries" to elect the leadership. This was decided yesterday in separate meetings party secretary Mikha Harish held with Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin. [passage omitted]

[A similar report by Menahem Rahat on Page A1 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 24 July adds that "the number of people who will be running for leadership of the Labor Party on the eve of the 13th Knesset yesterday rose to six sure contestants in addition to Shim'on Peres. These are: Yitzhaq Rabin, 'Uzi Bar'am, Gad Ya'aqobi, Moshe Shahal, Ora Namir, and Mordekhay Gur. Yisra'el Qeysar is also mentioned as a possible candidate."]

Peretz Reports 61,000 Soviet Immigrants in 1990

TA2307152490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Some 70,000 immigrants have arrived in Israel this year, 61,000 of them from the USSR, Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz told the Knesset's Immigration and Absorption Committee. He also said that beginning in August, 20,000 immigrants would be arriving monthly.

Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports that participants in the debate criticized the aliyah cabinet and said that although it has already convened five times, it has not made any real decisions to build homes for immigrants.

Cabinet Secretary on 'Private' USSR Visit

TA2107185690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein is on a private visit to the Soviet Union. During his week long trip, Rubinstein will meet with Jewish activists in Moscow and Leningrad. Before leaving Israel, the cabinet secretary said he had no scheduled meetings with Soviet officials, nor was he carrying any message to Soviet leaders.

King Calls Iraqi, Egyptian, Yemeni Leaders

*JN2107151390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1439 GMT 21 Jul 90*

[Text] Amman, 21 Jul (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn today telephoned his brothers Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Yemeni Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

During these telephone calls, conversations centered on the dispute between the two fraternal Arab countries, the Republic of Iraq and Kuwait.

King Husayn Returns From Egypt Visit 23 Jul

*JN2307154590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 23 Jul 90*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned to Amman this afternoon after a working visit to Egypt, where he held talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the current situation, particularly the current developments in the Arabian Gulf region. The two Arab leaders also discussed ways to eliminate differences, unify Arab ranks, and advance the peace process in the region. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, participated in the talks.

Interviewed on Iraq-Kuwait Dispute

*JN2307184490 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 23 Jul 90*

[Interview with King Husayn by unidentified reporter in Amman on his return from his visit to Egypt—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Following your talks with your brothers in the Egyptian leadership, are you optimistic about a quick solution to the crisis so that relations can be normalized among the brothers in Iraq, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates?

[Husayn] This is what we hope and expect, God willing. As for the visit to Egypt, it is part of the ongoing visits, because in addition to being members of the great Arab family, we are members of the Arab Cooperation Council. Such meetings—which will bode well, God willing—have to take place in order to address all developments and challenges.

[Reporter] Sir, through your contacts and in light of Arab efforts to settle the crisis, have you sensed any response from the concerned Arab parties?

[Husayn] Actually, yesterday I received the envoy of the brothers in Kuwait. As for Iraq, they are our brothers. I contacted by brother Abu-'Uday, [Saddam Husayn] the Iraqi president. Today I had the chance to meet with the Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister in Alexandria, who was on his way to Amman, but my brother President Husni Mubarak asked him to stay. He was supposed to arrive yesterday. So a meeting was held. I will continue to do the best I can in the interest of this nation, to which we all belong. I think the issue will be settled, God willing, by dealing with its causes in a spirit of Arab brotherliness and within the Arab framework.

Arms Shipment to Egypt Intercepted; 15 Arrested

*JN2407062590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
24 Jul 90 p 3*

[Text] Amman—Fifteen people were arrested last Wednesday [18 July] after they were found to be in possession of arms and ammunition destined for Egypt but there was no indication of any "political connection" with the smuggling bid, official sources said Monday.

The people, of both Jordanian and Egyptian nationality, were detained in the al-Karak area on their way to al-'Aqabah for the ferryride to the Egyptian port of Nuwaybi' with about two dozens of Soviet-made Kalashnikov machine-guns and an assortment of ammunition and small guns, said one security source. "Investigations are continuing, and so far it appears to have been an attempt to smuggle the arms and ammunition for sale," the source said. "No political connection has been found yet." All the arrested remained under detention Monday, he added.

A senior Interior Ministry official said a report was received by the ministry over the incident from the Public Security Department. But the official said he could not recall any details offhand simply because the affair was taken as an aborted smuggling operation. "I do not have the report with me now," said the official, who was reached over the phone at home since Monday was a public holiday. "If there was any evidence of any significant security link to the affair I would have definitely remembered the precise details," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

The officer in charge at al-Karak police station said he also did not have any details and advised the Jordan Times to contact the chief of police in the area Tuesday morning.

There was little indication that the arms and ammunition were intended to be used in any anti-Israeli attack across the demarcation line or in any attack within Jordan, according to all sources who were contacted by the Jordan Times.

Few details were immediately available on how and exactly where the arrests were made, or a breakdown of the number of Jordanian and Egyptian nationals involved. No information could not be obtained on the origins of the arms and ammunition either. [sentence as published]

"Arms smuggling through Jordan is not exactly very frequent," said a senior source. "We have come across attempts off and on but it is not a phenomenon," he added.

The report of the incident came one day after border security forces shot dead four infiltrators carrying similar machineguns and ammunition who crossed over to

Jordanian territory through what was described by officials as an area frequently used by arms and drug smugglers from Syria.

In that incident, according to sources, the four carried papers identifying themselves as members of a hardline Palestinian group—the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril—but the authorities were sceptical of the authenticity of the documents. "We do not believe they were from the group cited in the papers they were carrying," a security source told the Jordan Times.

Editorial Warns of U.S.-Israeli Attack on Iraq

JN2107080290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Jul 90 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "A U.S.-Israeli Threat to the Arab Nation"]

[Text] Israeli newspapers have not concealed that the current visit to Washington by Israeli Defense Minister Arens is linked to the Iraq-Kuwait affair, which—these newspapers claim—entails Iraqi threats to Kuwait. Nor have the newspapers concealed that Washington is obsessed with Iraq's military power, especially in the field of missiles and unconventional weapons. U.S. officials are deeply concerned about this military capability. At the same time, foreign oil circles are portraying the Iraq-Kuwait issue as a struggle between the Gulf oil giants.

This, together with earlier U.S. statements in which Washington expressed readiness to help what it termed its friends in the Gulf, suggests that the United States is doing all it can to take the Iraq-Kuwait affair out of its Arab context and find Israel a role against Iraq similar to Israel's role against Egypt in 1956. The true objective of these U.S. attempts is to abort Iraq's military strength, especially now that peace between Baghdad and Tehran appears possible and a balance in the military power between the Arabs and Israel also appears possible, thanks to Iraq's military capability, technological progress, and freedom from the burden of the war with Iran.

In light of this, we strongly warn the Arabs that Iraq may be the target of a lightning U.S.-Israeli attack while the Arabs are preoccupied with the Iraq-Iran affair and the world is preoccupied with the so-called struggle between the oil giants of the Gulf. At the same time, we warn that all Arabs without exception are targeted by any potential attack against fraternal Iraq and that any such adventurism will make altering the map of the region one of its primary goals.

It appears that the United States is seeking to take advantage of world detente and current major world changes to strike at the Arab nation through Iraq with a view to creating a new reality in the region, a reality that would enable Israel to retain the Arab lands it has swallowed up and make these lands a part of the forgotten past.

We, therefore, call on the Arabs to take the U.S.-Israeli threat seriously, to warn Washington against involvement in an issue that does not concern it, and to take the necessary measures to defend themselves.

Soviet Parliamentary Delegation Arrives 22 Jul

JN2207113990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] A Soviet parliamentary delegation, led by Valentin Afanasyevich Tetenov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived in Amman today via al-Ramtha on a three-day visit to Jordan for meetings with officials and parliamentarians. The delegation's visit to Jordan is part of a tour of countries in the region to explain the new Soviet policy on the situation and developments in the Middle East.

Briefed by Al-Qasim

JN2207183690 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning received the visiting Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Valentin Tetenov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Mr. al-Qasim outlined the Middle East situation against the backdrop of the new, hardline Israeli Government and cautioned against attempts by Israeli officials to misrepresent their settlement program to ensure the arrival of the greatest number of immigrants.

The minister said: We view the settling of Jews in occupied land as a clear human rights violation. He noted that it encroaches on Arab territory, compromises the Palestinian people's rights, puts the region's security at risk, and denies the immigrants the right to choose their own destination.

PLO's Qaddumi Meets With Foreign Minister

JN2107150890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Amman, 21 Jul (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office at noon today Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

During the meeting they discussed the situation in the region, especially political developments on the Palestine question, in addition to reviewing the fraternal relations between Jordan and the state of Palestine.

Received by King Husayn

JN2207181290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at noon today in the Royal Hashemite Court Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the king's political adviser, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the ambassador of the state of Palestine in Amman.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy on Badran, Elections

JN2107114690

[Editorial report] Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic on 21 July, first edition, publishes on page 14 an approximately 5,000-word interview with Deputy 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, the official spokesman of Islamic Movement deputies in the Jordanian House of Representatives. Commenting on the Badran government's performance, he says that although there have been some achievements, the government's performance "was below the required level," especially with respect to economic and administrative reforms.

He points out that some forces in the country are intentionally acting to sabotage democracy and notes that "the symbols of corruption still hold their positions and have not yet been truly touched by the arm of the law." He declines to say whether the Islamic Movement has decided to withdraw confidence from Mudar Badran's government, saying that the movement is in the process of "studying and evaluating" the government's performance.

Asked about current political and party activity on the Jordanian scene, 'Arabiyat says the Islamic Movement is searching for common ground with all forces in order to achieve reforms. He says the Islamic Movement does not fear "alternative opinion," because the people will be the judge in the end. "We support freedoms and political and intellectual pluralism," he says.

Asked whether the latest Muslim Brotherhood elections were a victory for the radicals, he says he has no details. "I asked about this and was told that some of it is true but most of it is untrue." Responding to a question, 'Arabiyat denies that the Islamic Movement's public image was suffering because of its failure to present clear or applicable programs. "This is not true," he says. "It is a rumor made up by sources who specialize in forging facts." He also denies that the Islamic Movement criticizes the government publicly and agrees with it secretly. He says there are no secret contacts with any party. "We act honestly and aboveboard," he says.

Water to Valley Farmers Reduced by 20 Percent

JN2107111190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
21 Jul 90 p 28

[By Jamil al-Sa'aydah]

[Text] A water shortage has caused the Jordan Valley Authority [JVA] to reduce by 20 pecent the amount of irrigation water allocated to Jordan valley farmers. Engineer Talal al-Ghazzawi, chairman of the Jordan Valley Farmers Union, said the valley's agriculture will be harmed as a result. In a letter to the JVA, the union's board of directors requested that the reserve of irrigation water in the valley be determined so that the union can take the necessary measures and the farmers can decide when to plant for the next agricultural season, which this year is expected to start later than in previous years.

Engineer al-Ghazzawi said drawing water from the Wadi al-'Arab and Sharhabil Ibn-Hasnah Dams to Greater Amman over the months of April, May, and June and the low water level in the King 'Abdallah Canal caused the crisis in irrigation water in the Jordan Valley. He said that the JVA is now distributing irrigation water to growing plants such as citrus, banana, and fruit trees, while it has stopped distribution to new summer crops.

He expressed hope that the JVA will respond to the union's request for determining the amount of water so that a clear program for water distribution can be drawn up and the time for planting for the next season can be fixed.

Islamic Bloc Loses in Women's Federation Poll

JN2107103190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
21 Jul 90 p 3

[By Maryam Shahin]

[Excerpt] Amman—A nine-member alliance of pan-Arab, leftist and independent women Friday [20 July] swept the elections for the executive committee of the Amman chapter of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) dumbfounding all predictions for an Islamic Bloc control over the women's federation.

The "national bloc" won all nine seats on the executive committee of the Amman federation defeating a seemingly strong Islamic Bloc and an independent candidate.

A record number of women turned up to vote in what was seen by observers as one of the "most politicized" elections of the GFJW in its nine-year history.

Of the 238 representatives of 108 women societies, social institutions and clubs as well as individual members in the Amman Governorate, 228 went to the polls Friday.

The high voter turnout was seen by federation members and observers alike as a sign of increased politicisation.

"We had two elections today, one for the executive committee and another for the group that will represent Amman at the general conference in August. In both elections we had defined blocs representing various trends of the political and social spectrum. It was the first time that we had such clear-cut and defined differences," said a former member of the Amman executive committee.

Haifa' al-Bashir, the two-time president of the Amman executive committee and the national executive committee, called Friday's election "a victory for pluralism."

"The elections today proved that women can organise themselves into effective blocs and achieve desired results. Today is a victory for all women in Jordan," al-Bashir told the Jordan Times.

Lutfiyah al-Zumayli, head of the Islamic Bloc in the elections, said she had "no comment" about the results of Friday's elections.

The election for the Amman delegation at the general conference was also won in a heated race by the National Bloc in its entirety.

As in the race for the executive committee, the election of the general congress delegation, which is made up of four separately elected members and the executive committee president, amounted to a race between two blocs and two independent candidates.

The four National Bloc candidates won the four seats assigned to the delegation. While the bloc took the seats in an overall landslide, the difference between the candidate receiving the least number of votes from the National Bloc (Rabab al-Nabulsi—91 votes) and the most popular member of the Islamic Bloc (Lutfiyah al-Zumayli—90 votes) was one vote.

"The race was very close because a certain number of women adhered totally to the blocs and others divided their votes between National Bloc members, Islamist Bloc members and the independent candidates," said a federation member involved in the counting of votes.

Friday's results, which spelled victory for a group of women who were described by federation officials as "relatively unknown" personalities, marked what women activists called "a landmark" in the federation's history.

"The total victory of the National Bloc marks a new stage in cooperation between pluralist women forces in the Kingdom," said a federation member affiliated with the Jordan People's Democratic Party.

While distinct differences were visible between the women in the National Bloc and women in the Islamic Bloc, observers say that approximately 50 women were not strictly aligned to either bloc.

An independent observer estimated that the number of women which "stuck" to either bloc were very close in number. "About 90 women stuck consistently to the National Bloc while 86 consistently voted for the Islamic Bloc," she said. "These figures varied slightly in each of the two elections, but they are approximately correct," she added.

In what seems to have been a personal "feud" between the federation members representing the national line, two candidates, formerly affiliated with the National Bloc ran as independents.

National Bloc members said that a decision had been made by the majority of its members to present a list of women that represented different independent, pan-Arab and leftist view to make the bloc acceptable to the largest possible number of women.

"As a result, some very capable women were not on our list, but you can't include everyone, one always has to make concessions," said one candidate who won in the executive committee race.

While no exact figures are available, federation officials estimate that there are 6,000 members in the Amman branch of the federation.

The "real test" of bloc strength or political strength will be tested at the polls in August when the federation's eight municipal committees meet along with a still unknown number of independent members to elect the national executive committee of the federation. [passage omitted]

CBJ Governor Details Failure of Petra Bank

JN2107104290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The prime responsibility for the crisis that led to the liquidation of the Petra Bank lies with the Bank management and nearly 80 per cent of this responsiblity lies squarely on the bank's general manager himself, according to Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi.

"Investigations revealed that the bank's board of directors was totally unaware of the bank's deteriorating conditions and did not follow up the numerous violations," al-Nabulsi said in a television interview Wednesday [18 July] evening.

"Bank officials, who had to implement orders given by the management in violation of the laws, will also be asked to account for their action in the court of law which will define each person's responsibility," he said.

Al-Nabulsi said that the majority of the employees could not be held responsible for the deteriorating situation because they were not aware of what was happening and transactions did not enter any books.

Al-Nabulsi pointed out that investigations revealed that most of the 650 employees cannot be held responsible simply because they were not aware of the major violations of the law on control of currency regulations.

He said that bank auditors played a major role in causing the crisis and the CBJ has solid proof that the auditors' report about the clients funds over the past three years did not reflect the reality and the genuine accounts in the bank.

Al-Nabulsi said that the CBJ had to delay taking action with regard to Petra Bank simply because the Kingdom was over the past months going through critical and dangerous economic circumstances, the dinar's exchange rates lacked stability and the monetary crisis was at its peak.

Before taking the final decision to liquidate the bank, the CBJ had to follow certain procedures to end all issues related to Petra Bank, realise the depth of the problem even though the CBJ had very strong evidence about the fraudulent actions and violations committed by the bank management.

Al-Nabulsi said that the monetary crisis in Jordan in the past year was responsible for flushing out Petra Bank's mismanagement and fraudulent actions because the bank failed to supply the CBJ with the required amount of monetary reserves.

These, according to law, amount to 35 per cent of any bank's capital reserves.

According to al-Nabulsi, Petra Bank failed to supply the amounts because its coffers were empty although, according to its statements, it possessed JD [Jordanian dinars] 160 million in foreign currency.

Al-Nabulsi described the recent measures taken by the National Economic Security Committee as tantamount to declaring Petra Bank bankrupt, but "the committee also decided to take measures to safeguard the rights of the clients and account holders and depositors."

"One has to bear in mind the major and speedy action taken by the CBJ which provided the liquidity," he said.

"The CBJ had to take a decision after considering information provided in the auditors' reports about the bank's assets and liabilities, which exceed JD 200 million, and to balance this against the amounts which the CBJ can safely provide for the liquidity," the CBJ chief said.

He said that the CBJ provided more than JD 200 million in cash in order to provide protection to the client's rights and to safeguard the Jordanian banking system's credibility.

He said that the Jordan Gulf Bank has a deficit of JD 27 million, but the nature of its problem is different from that of Petra Bank because it stems from mismanagement and delay in taking proper actions when needed while Petra Bank's collapse came as a direct result of criminal actions and illegal proceedings combined with poor management.

"It will be possible to deal with the Jordan Gulf Bank by restructuring its capital and by applying what is called refloating of the bank after proper measures had been taken to prepare for this step," al-Nabulsi pointed out.

Al-Nabulsi said that the Jordan Syrian Bank is a small bank whose operations were characterised by weakness from the very beginning due largely to organisational issues and failure to abide by the original agreement which brought this bank into being.

"The CBJ will think of a proper measures to handle this problem and could resort to liqudiating the bank and restructuring it in a manner that would exclude any Syrian participation," he said.

Al-Nabulsi also talked about the Jordanian branch of the Lebanese-based Mashrek Bank.

He said that this bank had been encountering major difficulties and its case is being handled by the Central Bank of Lebanon; its branches in the Arab World are being liquidating [as published].

In Jordan the situation is different because the CBJ has discovered that the bank's losses do not justify liquidation and therefore the problem can be contained and overcome.

Asked about the fate of the Petra Bank's employees, who are now facing a grim future, he said that the CBJ seeks to provide protection to these employees and is seeking to employ most of them in other banks.

The CBJ will also try to solve the problem by creating a new bank for exports and investments which will also absorb some of these employees.

Al-Nabulsi praised the new "companies' law" in Jordan which was responsible for charging the Petra Bank board with the responsibility for its collapse.

Amal's Humayyid Links Iran to Al-Tuffah Fighting

NC2407084190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] In a statement to reporters in southern Lebanon, Dr. Ayyub Humayyid, the Amal Movement Executive Committee chairman, has said that what is taking place in Iqlim al-Tuffah falls within the framework of an Israeli-Iranian deal to obstruct an Arab solution in Lebanon and to postpone the release of any foreign hostages until an overall solution is reached providing for the release of the Israeli pilot and handing over the bodies of two Israeli soldiers. He said when talk on the release of the Irish hostage began, Hizballah started the war in southern Lebanon and Israel staged the air raid on 'Ayn Bu Siwar to improve Hizballah's image. He said: What we had expected has happened. Hizballah launched its assault on Jarju', and Amal confronted it with all its resources because Amal realizes the danger of the Iranian plan in Lebanon. He said that the Palestinian deployment took place without consultations with us, but we approved it.

Solutions Offered To Achieve Peace in South

Army Discussing Intervention

NC2107141690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1315 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Responding to reports that discussion is under way on the army's intervention in Iqlim al-Tuffah, sources close to the army command said that the army will not intervene unless there is a clear and unambiguous political decision or a political agreement according to which all gunmen, including the Palestinians, will withdraw from the area.

Hizballah Secretary Calls for Truce

NC2307174890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes between Amal and Hizballah continue on the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines. Rockets and machine guns are being used in the fighting. According to medical sources, three people were injured in today's fighting. Of these, Hayfa' Hamiyah and Randa Hamiyah from Kafr Hatta have been named. The third is an unidentified citizen of 'Arab Salim.

Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli announced an initiative today for a direct dialogue with Amal in order to reach a solution. He said Hizballah will give guarantees committing itself to implementing all the agreements with Amal, and demanded similar guarantees from it. Al-Tufayli called for a truce and a face-to-face dialogue with Amal to reach an agreement. He explained that the result of any such talks will be better than those which the two parties have reaped and are reaping now.

While accusing Amal leader Minister Nabih Birri of declaring war on Hizballah in coordination and military cooperation with Israel and the South Lebanese Army, al-Tufayli asserted that his party does not want to eliminate Amal. He said Amal's existence provides a necessary additional presence that helps to control the security of the South. He declared, however: We cannot agree to being eliminated ourselves.

Al-Tufayli welcomed the deployment of the Lebanese Army in Iqlim al-Tuffah on condition that this is done within the framework of measures to end the fighting and resolve the dispute.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Embassy delegation led by Valizadeh continued its talks with the officials concerned in Sidon today, with the aim of ending the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah. REUTER quoted Valizadeh as saying that he is trying to implement the Damascus agreement which the two conflicting parties signed under the auspices of Syria and Iran eight months ago.

REUTER cites political sources who believe that the Palestinians, through their new expansion in Lebanon, are attempting to take hold of a new card to play in the Middle East. The agency said that Hizballah is meanwhile trying to assert its presence in order to ensure that it has a better role in the event an internal Lebanese solution is attained.

Phalangist Party Meets

NC2307193890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The Phalangist Party's Political Bureau, Consultative Committee, and Central Council held their weekly meeting under the chairmanship of party leader Dr. George Sa'adah at the Phalangist Party's Kasrawan branch headquarters this afternoon. The conferees discussed several party affairs, including the current preparations to hold two party conferences of the party's Political Bureau, Consultative Committee, and Central Council at the beginning of September. The conferees discussed the general situation in the country, particularly the mission of the Arab Tripartite Committee's envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi and the current efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis. The discussion also dealt with the dangerous situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The party's leader regretted the current procrastination in dealing with local and Arab initiatives at a time when fateful events are shaking the country. Dr. Sa'adah appealed for salvation and called for prompt action to end anomalous situations in the country and avoid wasting available opportunities. He said the country's destiny is in the balance and must not hinge on any particular consideration while Lebanon confronts a need for decisions on living conditions and social and fateful issues, not the least of which is the growing emigration and the status of education. He pointed out that the fate of education in the country is threatened by massive dangers. He also referred to the humiliations and hardships which the people face as they go about their daily business.

The Phalangist leader also denounced the infighting and power struggles among various parties in the South in general, and specifically in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He said that this internecine fighting serves international and regional interests at the expense of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. He expressed astonishment at the Palestinian intervention in current incidents in the South and warned that this is designed to promote Palestinian settlement and restore the situation that existed in that area prior to June 1982.

Following this, the party's Political Bureau held its weekly meeting and issued the following statement:

First, Phalangist national activity must be undertaken for the sake of salvation, in view of the fact that fateful issues, in addition to educational, social, and livelihood issues, are confronting the country. The present opportunity to rescue Lebanon must not be wasted for any reason, because Lebanon's destiny is above all other considerations.

Second, the party leader is asked to stress, at the next cabinet meeting, the need to hasten the quest for a political solution, for fear that certain developments might cause the present opportunities for a solution in Lebanon to be wasted. He must also press for measures to be taken to confront the possible faltering of the current efforts.

Third, the party condemns the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah. It rejects the Palestinian intervention and demands of the legitimate government that it establish its authority over Iqlim al-Tuffah and the South in general. The sovereignty of the legitimate government is the sole guarantee that the looming perils, including settlement and piecemeal annexation, can be averted.

Junblatt Hosts Farewell Ceremony for Soviet Envoy

NC2207190490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The current situation, particularly the developments in the South, were discussed today in a meeting in al-Mukhtarah Palace attended by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt; 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon; Muhsin Ibrahimi, secretary general of the Communist Action Organization; and Muhammad Baydun, member of the Amal Movement's Political Bureau. The meeting followed a massive farewell ceremony hosted by Junblatt in honor of Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha on the eve of his departure from Lebanon.

Speaking during the ceremony, Junblatt expressed his gratitude for the sacrifices and the material and moral assistance extended by the Soviet Union, the CPSU, and the Soviet people in support of the Arab causes, the Lebanese people, and the liberation movements. Junblatt added: So many ambassadors visited Lebanon, so many consuls lived in Lebanon, and so many envoys or emissaries came to Lebanon to replace one army with another, to substitute one act of injustice with another, and to establish a settlement that looks peaceful from the outside but conceals war inside. All this was accompanied by dirty dinars and destructive arms.

Junblatt went on: Let this moment be one of contemplation, reflection, and awareness of the problems that the future holds in store as well as of the clouds looming on the horizon for Lebanon and the Arab region. If the al-Ta'if agreement is what they want, welcome to al-Ta'if, but it is our right to request guarantees, since arms are currently being unloaded in a certain part of the eastern area. Junblatt added: At the time of the liberation war, it was the concern of the Arabs, or at least some of them, to lift the blockade imposed on the general ['Awn]. Much blood, the blood of innocent people of course, was shed. Today, the inspired emissary [Arab League envoy Ibrahimi] is on a similar mission to lift the blockade on the doctor [Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja'] and to bury the general. So be it, if the goal of these efforts is to turn the leaf of civil war in Lebanon for good, but we have had enough experiments and tests.

As for the South, which is burning in an unprecedented war, there is no escape, despite everything and regardless of all the sacrifices, from unifying the Lebanese-Palestinian rifles, digging trenches, and rallying the ranks in order to ward off the threats against the South and Lebanon.

Junblatt concluded: Finally, let this be a moment of contemplation, reflection, and awareness of the ways of solidarity, aid, and cooperation with the comrades-in-arms, the Red Army, which trained the heroes of Suq al-Gharb.

For his part, Ambassador Kolotusha delivered a speech in which he confirmed his feelings of amity for Lebanon and the Lebanese people. He praised the ties that link the Soviet and Lebanese peoples on solid and firm foundations for the establishment of peace on the basis of justice and right.

Fighting, Unrest Continues in Iqlim-Al-Tuffah

Amal Reconquers Jarju', Kfar Milki

NC2107114790 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, July 21 (AFP)—Pro-Syrian Amal militiamen, backed by Palestinian guerrillas, on Saturday regained part of territory they had lost to the Iranian-backed Hizballah movement, in fighting that left at least 15 people dead and 63 injured, hospital officials and security sources said.

They said that Amal managed after eight hours of heavy fighting to recover one third of their former stronghold of Jarju', a village in the embattled Iqlim al-Tuffah district located 20 kilometers (13 miles) south of here.

As one third of Jarju' fell to Amal, other pro-Syrian militiamen charged into nearby Kfar Milki—a town held by Hizballah since similar fighting in December—driving the fundamentalists out of the village and handing it over to Fatah, the sources added.

Huge clouds of smoke hung over the region and the thuds of exploding rockets and artillery exchanges could clearly be heard in this south Lebanon port.

Security sources said at least three Palestinian fighters from Fatah—the mainstream group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation—were killed in the fighting for Jarju' while 10 were injured.

The bodies of nine Amal combatants were taken to nearby hospitals where officials said they also admitted 51 militiamen wounded in the onslaught while Hizballah claimed it lost three and that two others were hurt.

The latest toll brought the number of dead in six days of fighting to at least 67—most of them combatants—and the number of casualties since Monday to 190, according to figures compiled by Agence France-Presse.

But security sources expected the toll to rise because the intensity of the combat had made any relief operations impossible.

Fatah deployed some 500 combatants Tuesday in the region to halt the fighting between the secular Amal and the Muslim fundamentalist Hizballah for dominance of Lebanon's Shiite community.

Overnight Friday, the Palestinian fighters reinforced their positions in the area, security sources said.

Hizballah, which has strongly condemned Fatah's deployment, said in a statement issued in Beirut that its fighters successfully repelled attacks launched Saturday against its positions.

Israeli-Lahd Position Destroyed

NC2207122790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The United National Resistance Front in the resisting South issued a statement today saying that 'Isam Sharaf-al-Din unit launched an attack on a position jointly held by the enemy and agent Lahd group in the area of Hula township. The statement added that the unit bore down on the position, showering it with a hail of rockets, and then withdrew. The position was destroyed, and tongues of flame were seen billowing from it.

Resistance Attacks Patrol

NC2307115590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] On the occasion of the 23 July Revolution [in Egypt] anniversary, the group of Martyrs Mahmud Qubrusli and Khalid al-'Ali of the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd forces attacked a joint patrol of the occupation forces and agents with rockets and heavy-caliber weapons on the al-Jarmaq road in the central sector. One of the patrol's vehicles was destroyed and all members of its crew were killed or wounded.

Violent clashes involving the use of various types of weapons are taking place between the fighters of the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd forces of the Popular Liberation Army and the border militia.

Security Situation Updated

NC2307143890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The situation is still the same in Iqlim al-Tuffah where fierce battles continue to rage between Amal and Hizballah, particularly on the Jarju'-'Arab Salim combat line. Large numbers of people are leaving the vicinity for safer areas.

The Radio of Light, organ of Hizballah, said the Amal Movement is still shelling Jarju' from its positions in 'Arab Salim and Sarba, using 120-mm and 80-mm artillery. [passage omitted]

A responsible Amal military source in the South has accused Hizballah of intermittently shelling Kafr Hatta, Kafr Bayt, the outskirts of Jarju', Humin al-Fawqah, Sarba, and Jurnaya, beginning at 0300 today and continuing until this afternoon. The source added that two young girls in Kafr Hatta and a citizen in 'Arab Salim were injured in this shelling. [passage omitted]

REUTER reported that six persons were injured in today's clashes and cited eyewitnesses as saying that the two sides are reinforcing their positions with fighters and ammunition. REUTER also cited what it called a high-level Palestinian source as saying that a 600-strong Palestinian force is now deployed at the entrance to Jarju' and has set up 15 observation posts. The Palestinian source called on the two warring parties not to turn the military deployment area into a target of their fighting.

Israeli aircraft flew at low altitude over the area this afternoon, drawing antiaircraft fire. Israeli helicopters also flew over Western al-Biqa'.

Israeli Convoy Injures UN Soldier

NC2307175690 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon (AFP)—An Israeli troop convoy drove into a roadblock southeast of here Monday, injuring a Norwegian soldier serving with the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL), a regional security source said.

The incident occurred in Kawkaba, in the Israeli-imposed "security zone" of southern Lebanon, where

Norwegian troops had blocked a road with three armoured vehicles to stop an Israeli Army engineer unit from passing.

The 20 Israeli soldiers aboard a tractor, two armoured vehicles and a jeep were on their way to build a military road that would cut through positions of the Norwegian contingent.

Troops aboard the tractor defied the Norwegian warning and smashed into the roadblock, injuring one of the U.N. soldiers, the security source said. There was no exchange of fire.

A spokesman for UNIFIL confirmed that a soldier had been hurt but failed to provide any other details.

Fighting Intensifies

NC2407054590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The Iqlim al-Tuffah fighting between Amal and Hizballah gunmen is continuing intermittently. Machine guns and rockets are being used in the fighting amid reports that both parties are reinforcing their positions and bringing in new troops. Meanwhile, an intense exodus toward safer areas is occurring.

According to security reports this morning, the artillery duel between the two parties intensified at approximately 0500 today, and the shelling is reaching the villages of Jarju', 'Arab Salim, Jba', 'Ayn Qana, and the al-Nabatiyah woods.

A source in the International Committee of the Red Cross said efforts are under way to secure a truce to enable Red Cross teams to enter Jarju' Township to evacuate the dead.

REUTER cited a high-level Palestinian source as saying that a force of 600 Palestinian fighters is currently deployed at the entrance to Jarju' and that this force has set up 15 observation posts. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Reports Amal Attacks

NC2407083690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The hired gangs [reference to the Amal Movement] have not learned from their previous experiences and do not know that resorting to weapons will not solve the problem but will instead make matters worse.

After their crushing defeat yesterday, they are today mustering the remnants of their defeated men and mercenaries to launch a fresh attack on the most chaste people of mankind, sons of the Islamic resistance, and on the mujahidin, who, as jihad and resistance have known, are the impregnable shield and defenders of the nation, the shield against which all plots of iniquity and agentry founder.

With the advent of the second day of the inviolable month of Muharram, at 0320 Birri's gangs began to shell Jarju' and Kafr Milki heavily with 107-mm rockets from their emplacements in Sarba.

At 0445, the shelling intensified when field artillery was used. At 0530, Birri's gangs launched a large-scale attack on the Islamic resistance strongholds in a bid to infiltrate them. The clashes continued until 0600, when the mujahidin were able to repulse the attack. The attackers' losses are not yet known. When the attack failed, the shelling of all Iqlim, particularly of Jarju', from the emplacements of Amal and its mercenaries in Humin, [placename indistinct], 'Arab Salim, and al-Numayriyah intensified at 0630. In the shelling 82-, 120-, and 122-mm artillery as well as rockets were used.

According to Islamic resistance sources, the Zionist enemy participated on a large scale in the shelling of Jarju' from its emplacements in Sujud, and shelled Mlita from its posts in (? al-Zaffat).

The latest reports from the Islamic resistance operations room indicated that, after their crushing defeat in their first assault, Birri's group and its mercenaries are still waging repeated attacks on the Islamic resistance strongholds in Jarju', where the Islamic resistance mujahidin are confronting the attackers, who are retreating and leaving many casualties behind.

Meanwhile, Hizballah has asked humanitarian institutions to act swiftly to evacuate scores of bodies of Amal and its allies, which are still on the site of the first battleground in Jarju'.

For his part, Nabih Birri, through his men stationed on the combat lines, is preventing the International Red Cross from performing its humanitarian task and evacuating the corpses because the disclosure of this great number of casualties will cause anarchy and chaos among those who lost their loved ones in the fire to which Birri has led them.

Israeli, SLA Shelling Hills

NC2407103790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Informed sources have said that the Israeli and South Lebanese Army [SLA] artillery shelled the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills at the rate of one shell every minute.

Eyewitnesses said smoke and flames are rising intensively above Jarju' township and the surrounding areas and that shells are reaching the Habbush farms and the highway leading to al-Nabatiyah.

Today's casualty toll rose to 40 dead or wounded, including 30 wounded people who taken to al-Nabatiyah hospitals. REUTER reported that five were killed and 12 wounded, most of whom were injured by land mine explosions.

Al-Shar' Discusses Hostages With UK Politician

JN2307204090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this evening received British shadow foreign minister Gerald Kaufman. Muhammad Khadir, director of the West Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the head of the British interests section in Damascus attended the meeting. The talks centered on the Arab-Israeli conflict and touched on the subject of British hostages in Lebanon and efforts to release all hostages.

Kuwaiti Envoy Leaves Damascus, Issues Statement

JN2407081890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti amir's envoy to Damascus, made a statement to a SANA correspondent on departure from Damascus last night in which he said: Syria has a special place in my heart. I had the great honor to meet His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. This meeting was not an ordinary one, because anyone who meets President al-Asad feels that this great leader cares about this nation's concerns and problems.

He added: I conveyed the amir of Kuwait's greetings to the president. I felt that his excellency was and is still with his Arab nation's issues, as he has always been. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad asked me to convey his greetings to his highness the Kuwaiti amir, and stressed Syria's support for Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. He added: Syria cannot but be a supporter of efforts to close Arab ranks, and of not allowing anything that disturbs fraternal relations. This nation cannot live through this difficult time without giving prominence to its history and role in contributing to civilization.

Al-'Awadi said: When one meets with leader al-Asad he feels his full faith in joint Arab action. He stressed that Syria has always supported joint Arab action so that Arab action will not be exposed to dangers. He added: This nation can only play its role in this world when there is real Arab solidarity.

Paper Warns of Stronger U.S.-Israel Alliance

JN2307063890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Jul 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "American and Israel are Strengthening Their Strategic Alliance," AL-BA'TH says: With the success of terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir in forming the new Zionist government, the United States has begun to hold a series of contacts on ranking levels to strengthen the two countries' strategic alliance and to develop this alliance politically and militarily in service of their plans to rearrange the regional situation, particularly with regard to the liquidation of the Palestine question.

AL-BA'TH adds: There is no doubt that the U.S. Administration, with premeditation, played an essential role in helping Shamir to form his government and produce one as he did; that is, the most extremist, racist, and terrorist Zionist government. On this basis, this government is more apt than others to reject peace and to obstruct international efforts to find a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem through an international conference. Consequently, this government is capable of preparing for a new military act in the region that would help it absorb hundreds of thousands of Jewish emigrants who are expected to arrive from the USSR, Ethiopia, and South Africa in the coming years.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: These developments give rise to more challenges and dangers for the Arabs threatening their fate now and in the future. A stronger strategic alliance between America and Israel is part of a clear scheme which, at a minimum, seeks the liquidation of the Palestine question and, at a maximum, means a fresh aggression to annex more Arab lands so that our enemy can reach its declared objective to establish a greater state from the Nile to the Euphrates. This requires that Arabs demonstrate more vigilance and solidarity to protect their fate and existence.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Responds to Questions at News Conference

LD2207223190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1657 GMT 22 Jul 90

[News conference by President Najibullah with foreign and domestic correspondents on 22 July, place not specified—recorded]

[Text] Journalists, dear friends and esteemed guests, I feel sincerely pleased to meet you. As far as I know, among the foreign journalists there is a large group of Scandinavian journalists which is indicative of their interest in Afghan affairs and I welcome their visit and hope that the results of their tour will be fruitful.

We are meeting at a time when the situation, inside Afghanistan as well as internationally in connection with solving the question of Afghanistan, is developing positively. Nationally we could mention a number of measures and changes, such as lifting the state of emergency; the formation of a government led by esteemed Khaliqyar, which as a whole could be claimed as a government with neutral character; the convocation of the Grand Assembly; amendments and changes in the Constitution; also changes introduced into the program, Charter and name of the party; and a series of other specifics—one could mention the convocation of the meeting of the founders of the Peace Front and the expansion of understanding, contacts and talks with internal commanders, the beginning of contacts and negotiations with the senior level of a part of the moderate opposition, and dozens of other measures which, all and all, provide further grounds and possibilities for understanding, reconciliation, and national reconciliation between the Afghans.

Internationally, understanding between the Soviet Union and the United States concerning a political solution to the question of Afghanistan is taking shape. They, of course, will help the Afghans achieve a political solution to the question of Afghanistan in order to seat themselves—that is the main key to the solution—around a negotiating table and solve their problems. We welcome such measures.

Also, we had detailed meeting with Benon Sevan, deputy secretary of the United Nations Organization, who was carrying a preliminary—of course, an unofficial—international consensus plan for a political solution to the question of Afghanistan. So, we are in an important and critical situation in our country which demands from all the interested parties that they should think responsibly and realistically regarding the solution of these questions. We should—as should all elements interested in a political solution of the question of Afghanistan—show our worth in putting an end to the suffering and sorrows of the people of Afghanistan.

With this brief introduction, I am at your service and it is your turn to ask your questions.

[Moderator] Dear journalists, the written questions that a number of foreign journalists had previously sent to the office of the esteemed president—those questions have been answered in written form by the president. They were returned to you earlier. In addition to those questions, if you have any other questions you can ask them:

[BAKHTAR reporter] Esteemed President, just before the meeting between the foreign affairs ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States in Paris, the Western press, quoting Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union to the United Nations, said something as if to indicate that the Soviet Union has agreed that during the transition period part of your authority should be transferred to another person, or organ. What is your opinion concerning this?

[Najibullah] Yuliy Vorontsov worked here for a time. For a long time he has been engaged in the affairs of Afghanistan and is aware of the objective realities of Afghan society. As far as we know, as it has been presented by the mass media, he did not put forward, or mean, an expression in that form. Once again I would like to state clearly, so that no misunderstanding and misinterpretation will remain in this regard. The Afghan side, the State of the Republic of Afghanistan, has put forward a comprehensive plan for a political solution to the question of Afghanistan, that is, a program for peace and a mechanism to achieve it, including an interim period, which was approved by the Grand Assembly convened during May-June in Afghanistan. Concerning a short cooling-off period, it is necessary for talks and dialogue between the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the opposition; and from the point of commencement of a dialogue until the holding of elections and the formation of an elected government, all the measures which are taken between these two poles or these two points, we have accepted this period as an interim period. This interim period includes: The beginning of a dialogue and talks, the declaration of a cease-fire or the cessation of combat operations, and as a result of a dialogue and negotiations, an Afghan peace conference could be convened or if this dialogue and talks resulted in not needing the convocation of such a peace conference, then directly, as a result of understanding, a coordinating committee or a joint election commission composed of all political forces interested in peace, could be formed. This committee or joint commission would commission other committees to draft a constitution and an election law and a joint commission to convene an elected Grand Assembly would be formed. After that elections for electing a parliament and the formation of an elected government would be in the issues. Of course, with the announcement of the commencement of talks and a dialogue, a cease-fire or the cessation of combat operations should also take place.

It should, however, be stressed that during the transitional period the area under the control of the sides, administrative organizations including the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan from our side and the Armed Forces of both sides, would remain the same.

During a meeting that we had yesterday with Benon Sevan, in order to realize our aspirations, which is the maintenance of peace, an aspiration that has been transformed into a vital demand and necessity of our people, and also because of our sincere desire to achieve the policy of national reconciliation and implement the principles in which we believe and have believed and which are a part of our policy, among them the abandonment of power monopoly and other principles with which you are familiar, I put forward a series of matters to convey to the UN secretary general of course, a series of conversations have also taken place with some other sources and we have even discussed some aspects of the matters with journalists. Our stand is also based on the principle of flexibility which we have shown time and again in connection with our proposals by introducing political initiatives.

I mentioned before that after dialogue and talks, a joint commission or a joint coordinating committee including all political forces should be formed either directly or as a result of a peace conference. The decisions of this commission should be made unanimously on the basis of a consensus. What duties could this commission have as a whole?

First: Preparation for elections and the maintenance of secure conditions for general, universal, and democratic elections; the distribution of UN assistance to the needy and the refugees who return home; preparation for the voluntary and speedy return of refugees to the country, their rehabilitation, and assistance and supervision over the cease-fire or the cessation of combat operations. As a whole it could advance those tasks, however, as a result of understandings between the Aghans, some other duties could also be given to this joint commission. To the extent necessary for carrying out these duties that I mentioned and the tasks that are being carried out in this regard, we are prepared to transfer some of the duties of the relevant ministries to a joint commission. That is provided the government of the Republic of Afghanistan, as a whole, remains in place.

In order to maintain secure conditions for elections, in the event that those extremists or fundamentalists who do not want to join the process of reconciliation, talks, and understanding should attempt to disrupt the election process, we are again prepared to transfer to the joint commission some units of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Internal Affairs along with units of the opposition which takes part with us in the joint commission as a joint defense force for maintaining election security. That is some units of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with the armed units of the opposition. The transfer of some of the authority of some of the ministries and units would be put at the disposal of a joint commission in which we are present and its decisions would be made by consensus. Of course, this is undoubtedly power sharing, but it is a part of our policy towards maintaining the aspirations that we mentioned above.

Concerning publicity and the mass media: We are prepared to put the mass media of the Afghan side and of the opposition, together, at the disposal of the joint commission, for publicizing the consensus and unanimous decisions of the joint commission. There is another condition also, that a portion of the media could be put at the disposal of the opposition with whom we are sitting in a joint commission to publicize their goals, and a portion to publicize our goals, but this may serve to increase the differences with regard to publicity. In order to increase understanding and unanimity, our publicity and their publicity organs should jointly publicize joint aims and goals that have been reached with consensus and unanimity. In this way, Benon Sewan said yesterday, the Afghan side has again put forward new plans and demonstrated flexibility. It is characteristic of the Afghan side that, beside flexibility, it acts decisively. However, these are still the opinions and proposals of the Afghan side and only through a joint commission can all these details be worked out with understanding.

The atmosphere of understanding that has been developing between the Soviet Union and the United States concerning the political solution of the Afghan question, or the active participation of the United Nations in this direction which we welcome and appreciate—this can only help achieve a political solution of the Afghan question and facilitate Afghan dialogue and talks. The fundamental key to the solution of the question is in the hands of the Afghans themselves who should sit around a negotiating table and reach specific decisions based on understanding. There are, of course, Afghans who are waiting for others to do something for them. Once again, I emphasize that all the forces who are sincerely working towards a political solution in Afghanistan, can do nothing but assist in the political solution and prepare the ground for dialogue between the Afghans. It is the Afghans themselves who should have the last word and make their final decision. If a number of those who are abroad are waiting for foreigners to solve their problems, their waiting is futile and wasted. We are confident that a large number of political and social personalities and political circles and groups of Afghans have arrived at the decision that, instead of knocking at the doors of foreign powers, the Afghans themselves should sit around the negotiating table, reach an understanding, and make decisions.

Another idea also exists, that during the period prior to elections we should give up the state, the government, and system. We believe that elections are not for the sake of elections, but are a means of maintaining lasting peace in the country. In all the measures that we are taking, we should step by step prepare the ground for the maintenance of lasting and nationwide peace. This idea is based on the fact that, in accordance with our popular saying, we should throw the state and system into the air prior to the elections and invite others to loot it. What will happen? Civil war—not a civil war, but a bloodbath. You have the examples in Konarha, in Takhar, and in Paktia, where the opposition groups are creating a bloodbath now. The relevant security that exists in the cities or provinces; on the highways which are open and which were rescued from economic blockade; the supplies of primary goods which are delivered to the people; or at least the honor and dignity of the people who have been safeguarded and who are secure—what sort of doomsday would be brought on them if you left the state to the looters? And are we to sit on a high mountain watching such irresponsibility? Not just history, not just tomorrow, not just the present generations, but the past generations who had struggled for enlightenment, democracy, and advancement will all condemn us. Thus we are not ready to let a power vacuum come about. We are ready to abandon our power monopoly, and have practically abandoned it so far; we are ready to share power. However, we shall not leave power, the system, the government, and the state to the looters.

On the other hand, the question of security for the elections is also on the agenda. The elections should be held under secure conditions. If a power vacuum exists, how could the elections be carried out? In this way we have emphasized and are emphasizing that one force alone is not able to completely control the situation, but the forces which we have—the system, the govenent, the armed forces, together with other forces that come together in the peace process—if all these join together, they could control the situation as a whole. Otherwise every other formula would mean that the situation here would not improve and would be disrupted. One such formula is that this government should leave, and another government should be formed which belongs neither to this side nor the opposition, and should be called neutral. It should be categorically stated that in connection with the situation which has developed in the course of 12 years, no one has remained neutral. All have their side, be it on the military front, or the political front, or on ideological front. Imagine for yourselves for a moment: if this government did not exist, and a neutral government came into power—would such a government bring about a system immediately such as we have created during the past 12 years? And what if they cannot achieve this within a day and a number of missiles are fired at them by the extremists? We are at least capable of sending a combat units or a group of our armed forces in order to safeguard the lives of innocent people, and thus engage in operations, for example, in Paghman. If they did not have these forces in their possession, I believe they would not be able to defend the people of Afghanistan against two missiles; and not only that, they would not defend the Afghan people, but they themselves would run away again and would leave the field. We have accepted that all are not going to take part in the peace process- even the Americans have said so openly, and U.S. sources have confirmed that possibly a number of extremists would not take part in the peace process.

These extremists will disrupt the situation. What force would this neutral government possess; surely not enough to safeguard the lives of the people of Afghanistan, but maybe for their own lives? Therefore we should be seeking formulae that are realistic, practical, and able to solve the problem. Despite the fact that we have all these forces and a system, the sitution is still complex. If you take this away, I believe a second Lebanon would come about in Afghanistan. In this way this power and this system, along with other forces, could jointly succeed in controlling the situation and take it toward peace, stability, democracy, elections, and every other thing. The elections would show that we respect the results. Whoever wins the election and wins the support of the people of Afghanistan should be respected and accepted by all sides. Therefore, it should be emphasized that all sides should have a responsible and realistic approach in this regard and not subjective as to what is his personal demand or interest. It should be based on the demands and interests of all the Afghan people who are thirsty for peace. The people are suffering losses every day and are asking: What is my position; what will be my share in the government; would these forces be given to me or not to me; would these ministries be given to me or not? In this way we are struggling for power and not to serve the people. I hope I have clarified our position.

[Tanin] Zahir Tanin from AKHBAR-E HAFTA: Esteemed president, in connection with the first question to which you gave a comprehensive and detailed answer, I have another question: A number of U.S. sources claim that if the transfer of some of the government's authority takes place in the transitional period, then this will confirm the U.S. plan or policy on Afghanistan, or put in another way, it is their plan and policy.

[Najibullah] You mean it is a U.S. view.

[Tanin] Yes, a U.S. view. I want to know your reaction in this regard.

[Najibullah] I think views, plans, proposals, initiatives, and measures should not be drafted on who will win and who will lose. All these issues should be based on their practicality, reality, and justness. Without any doubt the winner will be with that draft which enjoys these characteristics. During almost four years of implementing the national reconciliation policy, the establishment of peace, and ending war and bloodshed, we have proposed various drafts, views, and proposals, from sending a simple letter to conducting negotiations and talks at various levels with commanders inside the country, with social and political personalities living abroad, at the level of parties, and organizations, and so on. And by following persistently and consistently the national reconciliation policy, and through our honesty in fulfiling the measures that we have adopted in this regard, we have the support of our people. Our viewpoints and policy penetrate the world public opinion. It has opened up and will continue to find a way in the West and in the U.S. mass media too.

[Unidentified person in English] Even some Western mass media have..

[Najibullah in English] Mass media [word indistinct]. [continues in Dari] For we can see your measures from your [word indistinct]. France has opened its embassy. Italy has also opened one. And a number of Western countries are on the eve of similar actions. The mass media is not only involved in proposals and propaganda. They have also organized their line toward this realistic direction. Recently I read an article in THE TIMES which realistically assessed the existing real and true political situation in the country. If all our proposals and measures were to be so realistic and so logical so as to open a way slowly and get through to the borders of America and be favored by the Americans, then that would be a cause for pleasure and happiness to us. We are not interested if anyone calls an Afghan policy or an Afghan viewpoint a U.S. view. We accept them as U.S. views provided they are based on just and realistic principles, and are in the interest of the people of Afghanistan in order to ensure peace. Let them export such U.S. views to us every day instead of the missiles which savagely kill innocent people every day.

[Tirtai, BBC correspondent in Kabul, in English] Mr. Deepaek Tirtai...

[Najibullah interrupting] This Deepaek Tirtai takes a memo before making a translation. That is why you sometimes make mistakes in your reports.

[Tirtai] Sir, it is actually my colleages back in London who often makes mistakes in translating my pieces, for which I do apologize.

[Najibullah] It is all right.

[Tirtai, in English followed by Dari translation] Mr. President, I want to ask you about ex-king Zahir Shah. You have invited him constantly to come to the country. He recently announced that he has a plan for Afghanistan. Although the detail of this plan is not yet clear, however, allow me to ask: How do you assess the role of Zahir Shah, who is still considered as a political party, and who is respected by the people? If, after such a long silence, Zahir Shah should return again, what role do you anticipate for him?

[Najibullah] Although I have answered such a question within your written questions, I want however to stress that we have said many times that we have not only invited Muhammad Zahir Shah, ex-king of Afghanistan, but all Afghans who live abroad to play their part in deepening the establishment of peace. We have invited them to the country. We have invited them to come and sit for talks, to negotiation, and understanding. As far as it depends on their role, if they move and become active and not just issue a number of statements, they can play an outstanding part in this regard. However, we have clearly stated that the role of each of these Afghans, the role that they can play, and the position that they will gain depends purely on to what extent they have taken part in establishing the process of peace. The people of Afghanistan look at everything with open eyes. They see who really works with all of his heart, day and night, for the establishment of peace, and who just remains on (?high horses). The people of Afghanistan will judge on this issue. Each person who plays an effective role in establishing peace in the country will be worthy of praise by the people of Afghanistan.

[Unidentified correspondent] [word indistinct] About three or four days ago, a Soviet soldier who was being held captive was freed in Baghlan and has since been released. Of course, we express our thanks to the leadership of Afghanistan in this connection. However, if the leadership of Afghanistan could shed light in this respect or provide any other information about this topic.

[Najibullah] We have said several times and will say it again that Afghans base themselves on tradition, and share the pain and suffering of the families and those mothers whose sons are captive and who are not with them. The humanitarian duties too—that is both Afghan tradition and humanitarian duties—compel us to use all our efforts, possibilities, means and resources in order to release those Soviet who are captives of the oppositions. We have mobilized our various bodies in this direction in order to use their efforts by any means to release the Soviet captives and to return them to their suffering families.

Fortunately, we can say that the captive who was handed over yesterday, and whom I met today, is not the first such person, he is the seventh person that has been freed by us, by us, not by those efforts toward which we too rendered countless assistance. That is Andronov [head of Nadezhda, Soviet committee for POW's] who presently is discussing irresponsible issues. What haven't we done in this direction for him to carry out his duty in its best manner in connection with the release of Soviet prisoners? We even released Pakistani captives and important opposition commanders—not just one or two, but dozens of them. He has only managed to release just one or two persons. We have so far released seven persons. I have some more good news. Tomorrow or the day after, the eighth person who has been freed, and who is with us, will be handed over to the Soviet Union. About the future too, I promised that by any means, we would struggle to assure those mothers that their sons will return to them and that they will find happiness and pleasure instead of pain and sadness.

[Unidentified Danish correspondent] Mr. President, I am a journalist who works for a daily paper in Denmark. I live in a small but peaceful country. However, during the period that I have been in this country, I have seen countless missiles being fired from the surroundings at Kabul city and then fired again from Kabul at the opposition. Both types of missiles naturally cause suffering to innocent people. it is difficult to ask you at this stage of the war, who is to blame? However, I ask you, who is to blame? Also, you mentioned past mistakes at the party congress. Which of these mistakes are the more serious?

[Najibullah] In response to your question, it should be said that the firing of rockets by the opposition at innocent people and at nonmilitary targets is a sin. But when we fire rockets at enemy military targets, we pinpoint the enemy concentrations, the depots where weapons and rockets for the genocide of innocent people have been stored taking into account the fact that no innocent and local people live there and no villages are located there. Those two acts are different in their content and roots, and an equals sign should not be put between them.

The second matter is this: From the start of the national reconciliation policy and until now, we have frequently, even unilaterally, declared a cease-fire, which was observed by our side. We have not only declared a cease-fire but we have made proposals—30 to 35: In the Grand Assemblys of Afghanistan, in our state and party documents, many times we have extended an invitation, to the effect that we are ready to observe a cease-fire which is declared by the other side as national or local level. We even specifically said that we were ready to cease firing Scud rockets at the other side, provided they ceased firing SAKR rockets at civilian targets and cities. We have made tens of such proposals.

Therefore our proposals and our stand show our honesty; we have even unilaterally taken steps to ensure a cease-fire. But if someone from the opposite side wants to eliminate one's innocent people, we will be obliged to organize reciprocal actions in order to purge those elements and to prevent their criminal acts.

And the third matter: We have received a positive reaction from the country on the whole, even in the majority of locations, to our appeals, and we practically have a cease-fire with the opposition, and the exchanges have been prevented in practice. Our intellegence is such that a number of Wahhabi elements, along with some mercenary elements who are directly linked to Pakistan's intelligence service, and who are at the moment called army commanders, pay from 4000 to 5000 Pakistani rupees for every rocket fired. The Afghan Wahhabis carry out these tasks as mercenaries against their people, especially innocent people. All internal commanders in the country practically have abondoned this abhorent act to avoid ruining their own home and the murder of their own children and innocent people. Although I have made a written answer to this question, I would like to stress that besides these positive achievements of our state and party, we also have made mistakes and have shortcomings, which were stated, in detail, in the report which I presented to the second PDPA Congress, or the first congress of the Homeland Party. I invite you to refer to it and you will get the answer to your question in detail there.

[Moderator] Any other questions? It looks as if the esteemed journalists don't have any other questions. Allow me, esteemed president, on behalf of the home and foreign journalists who are present, to thank you for your participation in this press conference and for the replies that you have given to the questions raised by each of these journalists about important issues at the national and international level. Thank you.

[Najibullah] Thank you for your attention.

Indian Envoy Arrives With Invitation for Najibullah

Meets With Officials

LD2207153890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] His Excellency H.K. Singh, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Kabul this morning as head of a high-ranking delegation for an official friendly visit.

Da'ud Kawayn, deputy foreign minister, acting-head of the protocol department, and head of the First Political Section, as well as a number of Foreign Ministry officials, Mohammad Hamid Ansari, ambassador and extraordinary plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to Afghanistan, and embassy staff, welcomed the delegation at Kabul international airport.

His Excellency H.K. Singh will present the official invitation of the Government of India to Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, about his official and friendly visit to the Republic of India.

His Excellency H.K. Singh met this morning with foreign minister 'Abdul Wakil at the headquarters of that ministry. During this meeting which passed in a friendly and fully understanding climate, talks were held on bilateral cooperation, the regional situation, and topics of mutual interest. The foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan briefed the Indian guest on the development on the process of the political solution of the issue of Afghanistan and on the military-political situation of the country.

In return the Indian state minister for foreign affairs expressed the Indian Government's strong support for the national reconciliation policy of the Republic of Afghanistan as a practical solution. He expressed support for the efforts made by the Republic of Afghanistan headed by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, toward the establishment of peace in the country.

His Excellency H.K. Singh backed the foreign policy of the Republic of Afghanistan which is based on peace and understanding, and considered as another step the visit of the Indian delegation to the Republic of Afghanistan toward the expansion of relations between both countries.

Both sides assessed positively the work of the ninth session of the joint Afghan-Indian economic and technical cooperation commission. They added that to implement better the decisions of the commission, the relevant authorities of the both sides should assess the practical results of the decisions of the commission within the fixed period of time and keep each other informed.

According to another report, His Excellency H.K. Singh attended a reception this evening which was given in his honor by Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil in the reception hall of that ministry.

Received by Najibullah

LD2307173990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met today with His Excellency H.K. Singh, state minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India. During the meeting His Excellency Singh conveyed the good wishes of V.P. Singh, the prime minister of the Republic of India, and the leadership of India for the people and the leadership of Afghanistan to esteemed Najibullah. Praising the role of esteemed Najibullah in the implementation of the national reconciliation policy he expressed the good wishes of the state of India for the expansion of friendly relations between Afghanistan and India. H.K. Singh noted friendly relations between the two countries develop every day. The visits of the authorities of each of the countries to the other further consolidate these relations. During the meeting H.K. Singh presented to esteemed Najibullah an official invitation of the Government of India for him to visit India. It was received with gratitude.

In response the esteemed president of Afghanistan expressed his pleasure and good wishes to the people and the leadership of the Republic of India, and spoke about the peace proposals of the government and the developments of the situation in the Republic of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Meets With Prime Minister

LD2307191190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The press office of the premiership reports that esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met this morning with H.K. Singh, state minister in the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India, and an accompanying delegation in the Golkhana Palace of the premiership. During the meeting fruitful talks were conducted on mutual relations and cooperation, the expansion of friendly relations, and the expansion of economic aid between the two countries. [passage omitted]

India

Gujral Confident About Retaining USSR Market

BK2307160290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The external affairs minister has expressed confidence that the Indian goods and the Indian industry will be able to retain their place in the Russian market despite the big entry that the West intends to make into East Europe and the Soviet market. Briefing journalists on board the prime minister's plane to the Soviet Union, Mr. I.K. Gujral said other than Russia, Indian goods have already made inroads into the highly competitive Western markets. [sentence as heard].

When asked on the rupee-ruble parity, Mr. Gujral said it is open for discussion.

Soviet Coverage of Singh's Moscow Visit

WA2307155390

For Soviet coverage of the official visit of Prime Minister Singh to the Soviet Union, including talks with USSR President Gorbachev, please see the 23 July Near East and South Asia section of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

BJP Adopts Resolution on Domestic Situation

BK2307163690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has expressed concern over the unabated price rise of essential commodities in the country. The National Executive of the party, which concluded its three-day session in Madras today, said in a resolution that the government has done nothing tangible to arrest the increasing trend in prices. The Executive suggested that government should immediately import edible oil and other essential items which are in short supply. It also urged the government to appoint an industrial price commission on the pattern of the agriculture price commission to regulate the prices of manufactured goods.

Another resolution on the Kashmir situation urged the government not to hold any talks with terrorists as long as terrorism continues. It wanted the India-Pakistan border to be effectively sealed.

Later, addressing newsmen, the party president, Mr. L.K. Advani, stated categorically that his party's support to the National Front government will continue and it would like the government to last its full term of five years. He asserted that the BJP is not trying to force its views on the National Front government. Mr. Advani, however, alleged that the government's performance during the last few months has not come up to the people's expectations. However, there has been an earnest effort to restore the vitality of democratic institutions which suffered during the Congress-I regime, he said. The BJP president demanded the immediate implementation of the Sarkaria Commission report on center-state relations. He said there should be unanimity on the matter of devolution of powers to the states.

Iran

Complaint Filed Against U.S. at The Hague

NC2407060890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] A complaint by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the United States for having perpetrated the inhuman crime in which the warship Vincennes downed an Iranian passenger plane and martyred 290 of its passengers and crew is to be handed to the International Court at The Hague. The following statement has been issued by our Foreign Ministry in connection with this:

The perpetration of the inhuman and incredible crime in which the USS Vincennes attacked the Airbus passenger plane 655 on 3 July 1988 resulted in the plane's crash and the martyrdom of 290 of its passengers and crew. This memory will never be erased from the pure hearts and the alert conscience of noble people.

Since the international community has formerly, and in similar cases, announced its aversion to attacks on civilian planes and has condemned such illegal acts, which are contrary to elementary humane considerations and principles of international law, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran also propounded this incredible tragedy at the UN Security Council and at the council of the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO] with the just hope that the criminal act of downing the plane in Iran's airspace and over the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran would be strongly condemned.

Unfortunately, after one year of delay and studies, the ICAO council adopted a cautious stand on this tragedy and on 17 March 1989, while denouncing the attack on the passenger plane, said this crime was due to a mistake and described it as accidental. The council did not clearly condemn the United States and did not point out the U.S. Government's responsibility to pay compensation and to guarantee that there would not be similar incidents.

In protest against the ICAO's wrong decision, the Islamic Republic of Iran filed a complaint against the U.S. Government at the International Court in The Hague on 17 Ordibehesht 1368, or 17 May 1989, on the basis of the 1944 Chicago international convention on civil aviation and the 1971 Montreal convention on preventing illegal acts against civil aviation security. On the basis of the said court's ruling, 24 July 1990 was set as the date for the Islamic Republic of Iran to file the detailed complaint against the United States on the Airbus tragedy. Therefore, this morning a 250-page complaint and two pages of addenda will be handed over to the International Court offices.

In this complaint, various cases of illegal U.S. acts which are contrary to the the norms and principles of international law, as well as the intentional act by the Vincennes in attacking the Airbus have been clearly and explicitly explained.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expects the International Court judges to take international norms and regulations into consideration and to study the various dimensions of the horrific and inhuman tragedy of the massacre of 290 innocent children, women, and men in the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to issue the necessary sentence on the basis of justice.

President: Iran Wants Closer Ties With Neighbors

LD2407104990 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani underscored that Iran's Foreign Ministry should assume brave, explicit and active stands in order to outline political issues of the country in the society. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani was addressing Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and a group of visiting heads of the Iranian diplomatic missions abroad here Monday night [23 July].

He added that following Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 598 two years ago on ending the Iraq-Iran war the late Imam Khomeyni commissioned a group to formulate policies for the reconstruction of the country. The group was led by leader Ayatollah Khamane'i, the then president and included other dignatories among them, heads of the three branches of the government, prime minister and Majlis deputies. The compiled programs were later taken to the late imam by Ayatollah Khamene'i and received his approval upon which the first five-year plan was based.

Obviously, he stressed, the free atmosphere prevailing over the society necessitated that some people disapproved of these policies. "But certainly the firm policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not an enemy-seeking policy."

Pointing to economic issues, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that the priority is given to production, noting that measures have already been taken to save factories from going bankrupt. No doubt, he added, steady growth in production will entail improved distribution system, but reminded that time is needed to harmonize production and consumption.

As for new developments in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "suitable conditions have been created within OPEC which will push oil price closer to its real level." He stressed that Iran's foreign policy was based on establishing closer ties with neighbouring and regional nations, adding that the country had no problem with the European countries with the exception of Britain.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Assails Leftists, Rightists

LD2307123190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] This morning, on the eve of the month of Muharram [lunar month starting 24 July], Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, made a long speech in which he stressed the need to safeguard Islam. He said: It is our duty to safeguard Islam, the trust left to us by the holy household [ahl-e beyt].

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was speaking in a gathering of the Friday and congregational imams and members of the clergy, added: The presence of the members of the clergy among the Muslim people of the country could be an opportunity to explain and elaborate Islamic teachings and strengthen links with the people. During the period of struggle against the system of monarchical tyranny the month of Muharram was our greatest base, and it was that month which led to the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Referring to the victory of Islam, the Koran, and the religion of the society, the president said: God has provided us with an exceptional opportunity as his greatest bounty to us, and we possess sufficient number of faithful and self-sacrificing forces and the patience and fortitude of the people has been tested. We should implement our understanding of Islam.

Referring to the distinguished character of the illustrious leader [Khamene'i], Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: He is the most distinguished Islamicist [chehre-ye Eslamshenasi] in the most comprehensive meaning of the term. He is definitely a mujtahid [an expert in Islamic studies who has the right to issue authoritative viewpoints on religious matters] and is fully versed in the understanding of the fundamental teachings of Islam and the religious texts. When I look at any of the distinguished characters among the members of the clergy I see that there is no one else who combines so many exceptional qualities in a single person.

The president pointed out: With the election of such a figure at a sensitive juncture the Assembly of Experts took a clear and interesting decision. Now Islam is strongly advancing forward with all its basic aspirations and goals. Of course, we are still far removed from an Islamic society and a desired community that is ideal in all its dimensions.

Referring to the everlasting struggle between blasphemy and Islam, the president said: The true struggle between us and world blasphemy concerns the point that they do not wish to see Islam being implemented as a successful ideology in a country. On the other hand, we plan to present Islam as a successful model.

The president added: World blasphemy imagined that with the passing of his eminence the imam the revolution would be faced with difficulties. However, if you compare today with two years ago you will see that the people have become more earnest in defending Islam and the revolution compared to two years ago, because they know that heavy responsibilities rest on their shoulders.

Explaining the two leftist and rightist trends both inside and outside the country, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, said: None of these two trends have been in favor of us. The right-wing trend will be satisfied only when the government is returned to the feudal and one-thousand-family situation that existed in the past, while the leftists would like to see the country being run as the most extreme communist country. Unfortunately, some good, sincere, and Muslim kids [bacheha] who also desire the perfection of the society are deceived by these trends. However, we have certain positions that were in full conformity with the views of his eminence the imam during his lifetime and, at the moment, are in full conformity with the illustrious leader. We regard this as the true Islamic path.

Referring to the different dimensions of Islam, the president stressed: If we only implement Islam in its cultural and moral dimensions but do not pay any attention to its economic dimensions we will not be successful. Also if we do not pay attention to the issue of literacy and the society's scientific dimensions we will register the worst record for us in history.

Stressing the need to make use of eminent scientists and advanced international technology in the scientific centers of the country and to raise the cultural level of society, the president said: It is possible that some of the leftist and extremist kids may regard this as trampling upon our aspirations. However, we as pure Muslims, should not accept such talk.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Islam has never desired the people to live in hardship, and if certain individuals say that the people will tolerate poverty, ignorance, and disease, they are not telling the truth. We should not accept the leftist and ignorant slogans.

Continuing his remarks, the president described the economic and political situation of the country and said: The basis of our foreign policy is not to make enemies for ourselves, because today's world is not like the period of the Qajar or the Zand dynasties [Zand dynasty came to power toward the middle of the 18th century, followed by the Qajars at the end of the 18th century]. The present age is the age of international organizations and of communication. If we sever our links we will not be able to live, and we should not make enemies without any cause.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out: Of course, sometimes a country like the United States, due to its aggressive nature, or Israel, which is an illegitimate offspring, engages in enmity against us, and in return we give them an appropriate response.

The president emphasized: The basis of Iran's foreign policy is to eliminate foreign influence whether from the East or the West and the elimination of dependency. In the present age international communications are such that all are connected to one another. We should act in such a way that we possess the ability to maneuver and will not be a captive to communications, regardless of what some ignorant and naive individuals may say.

Referring to the acceptance of Resolution 598 by Iran and Iraq, the president said: At the moment, we are moving toward peace. The resumption of the war is not in Iraq's interests and in its approach toward peace talks that country has adopted a positive policy.

Regarding recent developments in the price of oil, the president added: The cooperation of Iran with a number of regional countries had led to an increase in the price of oil. Many of the countries of the region have reviewed their policy of selling oil at a low price. In view of the lowering of the value of the dollar, the oil exporting countries should not sell this commodity cheaply. With the efforts of the Islamic Repulic of Iran and some other countries, the price of oil has been raised by up to four or five dollars [per barrel].

In continuation of his speech, stressing the role of the Assembly of Experts, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The strengthening of that holy organization is the strengthening of the system of the Islamic Republic and respect for it is respect for the highest source of our support and reliance. If a person or a trend may be thinking of weakening that holy organization, that action will be regarded as treason and should not be tolerated.

Stressing the good relations of Iran with its neighbors and with other countries of the world, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Today, more than ever before, the world wishes to have good relations with the Islamic Republic, and in the calamity of the earthquake you noticed this attitude.

At the end of his speech, addressing the members of the clergy, the president said: One of the most important duties of the clergy is sincere and direct relations with the people. If we become distanced from the masses and the oppressed people we will deliver the worst blow to Islam.

Conference of Iranian Foreign Envoys Continues

Velayati, Khomeyni Address Diplomats

NC2307114690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The heads of diplomatic missions and general consulates of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad went to the pure tomb of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and attended a ceremony during which they renewed allegiance to the lofty aspirations of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and to the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution.

During the ceremony, which was also attended by the foreign minister and deputy foreign ministers, Mr. Velayati first spoke about the special attention the imam of the ummah attached to the Foreign Ministry and its activities and said: The imam repeatedly placed emphasis on the sensitive role of the ambassadors and representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad in preserving the gains of the revolution, and we should make this directive of the imam the epigraph of our activities. He added: The imam is not among us. But his spirit is watching us, and if we move along the path of justice, the imam's good prayers will accompany us.

Then Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni referred to his eminence the imam's emphasis on the slogan of neither East nor West and said: The slogan of neither East nor West does not mean the building of a wall around us, and this was also not the imam's intention. He said: What the imam emphasized and the esteemed leadership is emphasizing is the preservation of principles because if these principles are not preserved, the revolution will be harmed. He added: In our relations with foreign countries, we should try not to lose our moral influence among the peoples of the world.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni then pointed to the need for the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran internationally and said: You, the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad, should strive to preserve the gains of the revolution.

Khamene'i Denies Move From Islam

LD2307190590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, addressed a gathering of foreign policy officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. He graciously elaborated on Islam and the Islamic revolutionary movements as the impetus behind rapid and significant international developments, describing as the objectives of global arrogance the propogation of allegations that the IRI has revised its policies.

In the meeting, at which the foreign minister, executive officials, the heads of foreign missions, and the IRI's consuls to foreign countries, were present, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, graciously stressed the importance of the country's foreign policy and its diplomacy vis-a-vis the other governments, saying: The current developments in today's world, even though occurring in the other regions around the world, are nevertheless related to us. Today the European scene is tainted with the impact, consequences, and results of these developments. The issue of the unification of the two Germanys, a united Europe and its ensuing impact, as well as issues related to the Soviet Union, are major issues which Islam and the Islamic revolution of Iran have played a significant role in creating, in the light of which new factions were evolving and will evolve around the world.

Regarding the changes and developments in the Soviet Union, the esteemed leader rejected the allegation that their roots are to be found purely in the economic problems of that country, graciously adding: The involvement of the popular presence and willpower of the nations, to the extent of creating a new pole in international equations, is something which was first manifested by the Islamic Revolution of Iran. No clear-sighted individual can deny the impact of Islam and the Islamic revolution in the realization of new global conditions. The events in Eastern Europe began from a religious stimulus, and we link the inclination toward spiritualism in that part of the world to the victory of the Islamic revolution which shook the world.

The leader of the Islamic revolution expounded the aims and objectives of global arrogance vis-a-vis the revolutionary and Koranic government of the IRI, graciously saying: Our enemies attempt at the international level, specifically among the Muslims, to profess the allegation that today's Islamic Iran has relinquished its basic slogans, and is different from the boisterous system of the revolutionary Islamic Republic of the past 10 years. On numerous occasions, what has become noticeable is the manner of the propaganda campaign of various countries who have approached the IRI, in that their principle objective has been to prove that false allegation, and to spoil the revolutionary image of this system among the nations.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, elaborating on the propaganda lines of global arrogance, graciously said: Our enemies' objective is to depict what they see as extremism, as a limited current, detached from the general policy of society and the system of the Islamic Republic. By using their propaganda, they allege that the heritage and line of the imam are revered and respected by only a limited number of individuals in the Islamic Republic. It will be a cause of regret if a number of individuals naively fall into believing that allegation.

The eminent leader, reaffirming that the principle movements of society are based on the line and path of the imam, graciously said: It is to the expediency of our religion and world to stride on the path which was opened to us by the great deceased imam of the revolution 11 years ago. We will continue on this path to the last breath, and will not relinquish any of the objectives drawn by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be admitted to paradise.

His eminence described the implementation of social justice, giving preference to the barefooted people and their interests, wishes, motiviations, and feelings over those of the indifferent rich, as one of the aspirations of the imam, and added: The support given by the people to officials and their regarding it as a duty, the movement toward the blossoming of creative talents inside the country for the sake of achieving self-sufficiency, the confrontation of world arrogance, keeping our distance from interfering powers, fighting against tyrannical and domineering world oppressors, confronting any sign of tyranny in any part of the world, the rejection of the dominance of oppressive hands in the world against any country or nation, and regarding the issue of Palestine as a central issue—these are aspects of the path which the IRI is pursuing in its life, and it regards movement on this path as its religious duty.

The leader of the Islamic revolution described an insinuation, to the effect that the revision of the contents and intellectual path of his eminence the imam is a major and extensive trend inside the country, as a propaganda ploy by the enemies of Islam. Calling on the diplomatic representatives of the IRI to neutralize that trick and to prevent the sallying of the features of the Islamic system in Iran, he graciously said: The Islamic revolution is a valued system. Those who are trying to portray revolution and revolutionary aspirations as an anti-value system have received the greatest blows at the hand of the revolution. Doubting the revolutionary values and struggle against tyrannical and domineering powers is an antivalue notion. The only path to the salvation of nations is their independence from tyrannical powers, powers which have always tried to make the nations think that the only path of salvation is to come under their domination and influence. However, not only do we not believe in this assertion, we also urge other nations not to believe in it.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described any compromise with America as the bondage of the IRI, and said: Those who imagine that the salvation of this country and this nation is in not confronting oppressive powers and refraining from what they mainly call extremism are very mistaken. The degradation and bondage of the Islamic Republic would be in submitting to and compromising with America. It is impossible that the enemies of God may witness such an attitude in us.

The illustrious leader of the Islamic revolution stressed the fact that the politics and diplomacy of the IRI are based on opposition to and confrontation against those who violate the independence of our nation and their human dignity. He said: The system whereby the name of Islam and the Koran surrender to the enemies of God is not the Islamic Republic. It is an American republic. That system [the Islamic Republic] is based on the Koran and the path of the prophets for the sake of whose establishment many faithful Muslim youths have sacrificed their pure lives, and for the sake of whose safeguarding much blood has been shed. Therefore, the posture of such a system toward the enemies of God will always be offensive [mote'arez] and nonsubmissive.

The illustrious leader of the revolution stressed the need for establishing relations with other countries from an honorable positon and said: We attach greater importance to the slogans and the course of the revolution than to anything else, and we believe that in today's materialistic world this ideology and this thinking will become victorious. We are a great nation and country, and we are situated in a sensitive part of the world. We are not an isolated nation. We are a nation whose words, path, and deeds, as well as the banner which we have unfurled, influence a great part of the world outside the physical boundaries of our country. Today, many countries wish to have relations with such a country, because these relations are in their interest. Therefore, political relations and economic cooperation would not mean that we should ignore the slogans of the revolution.

In concluding his address to the ambassadors of our country throughout the world, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said: Your features should be revolutionary and devout features, and should reflect the same characteristics which the world recognizes in the imam. Also, the atmosphere of our embassies abroad should be an atmosphere of piety, and all should try to implement their religious and missionary duties [vaza'ef-e shar'i va resale'i]. Embassies should be completely Islamic premises, and their employees should portray the features of Islamic, committed, and revolutionary individuals through their sincerity, good manners, kindness, cooperation, respect, and politeness.

This meeting was also attended by deputies and a number of officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the heads of the diplomatic missions and consul generals of the Islamic Republic in foreign countries. Before the remarks of the illustrious leader, Mr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, in a short speech referred to convening the three-day seminar of heads of IRI diplomatic missions abroad and said: We are very pleased at the continued line of the imam in our foreign policy within the capable hands of the illustrious leader of the Islamic revolution. We hope that through obedience to the sagacious guidelines of the exalted positon of the Guardian of the Cause of the Muslims, we can perform our duties in advancing the sacred goals of the Islamic Republic.

Aqazadeh Leaves for Geneva OPEC Meeting 24 Jul

LD2407072790 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh left here for Geneva Tuesday morning to take part in the 87th session of the oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The ministerial session will start Wednesday [25 July], but the market monitoring committee will meet today to review the oil market situation during the past six months, the supply and demand as well as oil prices for the second half of the current year.

Iran, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Algeria, and Nigeria are members of the market monitoring committee, but usually the sessions are attended by all OPEC members.

Oil prices have risen considerably in the recent weeks following the emergence of agreement among OPEC members on the need to push up oil prices and observe production quotas.

Besharati Warns Amal Over Cameraman's Abduction

LD1907183890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] This afternoon Mr. Besharati, senior deputy minister of foreign affairs, accompanied by the director of the Middle East and North African Affairs Office of that ministry, paid a visit at the hospital to Mr. Mahdi Me'marian, the cameraman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Voice and Vision who was last week arrested and tortured in Beirut by individuals attached to the Amal Movement of Lebanon.

At the said visit in which the political deputy director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Voice and Vision was also present, Mr. Besharati condemned that action. While world Zionism is transferring Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, by calling off efforts for unity, suspicious groups are treading on the footpath of the Zionists. By resorting to such acts they intend to subvert the course of struggle against the emigration and against the regime occupying Jerusalem.

The senior deputy minister of foreign affairs added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning such acts, warns the heads of these groups that if they repeat those acts the Islamic Republic of Iran will strongly confront them and abandon its support for them. He said: These acts are 100 percent in accord with the line of Zionism and will fan the flames of the existing tension in Lebanon. And they will lead to the distancing of the Islamic Republic of Iran from these groups.

Mehdi Hashemi Associates 'Under Scrutiny'

LD2207180790 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 22, IRNA—Justice of religious courts Hojjat ol-Eslam Razini said to the Persian daily KAYHAN Sunday that for security reasons elements associated with the circle of the notorious Mehdi Hashemi are under close scrutiny. He said that if Imam Khomeyni had not made the crucial decision as he did in connection with Mehdi Hashemi an encounter with him and his circle would be far too difficult today.

Mehdi Hashemi was arrested in August 1987 on charges of homicide and anti-state activities. He was found guilty on same charges and was subsequently executed in the October of the same year. The justice of the religious courts noted that Hashemi had put on a revolutionary facade, while he had previously collaborated with SAVAK, the secret police of the shah.

Ex-information minister Mohammad Mohammadi Rayshahri has referred in name to some supporters and fellow-travellers of Mehdi Hashemi in a recently published memoir of his. The persons named by Rayshahri are not now under custody. According to Rayshahri the most prominent figure in Hashemi's circle now is his brother Hadi Hashemi who is also son-in-law of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

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90AS0171A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
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[Text] Legal And Majles Division: Investigation of the bill to integrate the Komiteh, Gendarmerie, and Police and to form the "Law-Enforcement Guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran" continued during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

Our correspondent's report in this regard indicates that investigation of Articles 4, 5, and 6 of this bill has been concluded and the aforementioned articles received the approval of the deputies.

Article 4—Paragraph 26:

Note: The Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics will have the same responsibilities toward the Law-Enforcement Forces [Pasdaran] of the Islamic Republic as they did toward the previous law enforcement forces. Their purchases of defense materials from abroad shall be conducted by the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics.

Article 5: In implementation of Paragraphs 25 and 26 of Article 4 of this law, independent and concentrated organizations shall be formed and be called accordingly the Intelligence Protection Organization and Politico-Ideological Organization. These organizations shall result from the integration of similar existing organizations within the law enforcement forces [organizations].

Note 1: These organizations shall have the same tasks and missions of their namesake organizations in accordance with the Law of the Armed Forces of The Islamic Republic of Iran.

Note 2: Chiefs of politico-ideological and intelligence protection organizations shall be appointed by the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Article 6: The Interior Ministry is obligated to prepare and present to the Islamic Consultative Majles the bill for employment guidelines, salaries, benefits, and promotions of the personnel within six months after the passing of this law. Until the passing of such bill, the present laws and guidelines shall be in effect.

In accordance with this report, in continuation of yesterday's session, the legal plan for interpretation of Note S-13 of the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] National Budget Law was presented to the Islamic Consultative Majles with a single urgency.

After some remarks by deputies in favor of and opposed to its single urgency, it was put to vote and approved.

Mr. Akrami: The slogan of supporting the deprived along with forming companies [as published] is divisive and deludes the people.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Seyyed Reza Akrami, the representative of the people of Semnan, who at the outset of his speech referred to the second year of the third Islamic Consultative Majles and said: The third Islamic Consultative Majles entered its second half and 10 years have passed from its life. During these 10 years it witnessed the passage of many events and, overall, it had a dignified report card. We the present deputies must evaluate ourselves in order to find out the degree of our own success. Some [of us] have been a part of this sacred association for 10 years, some for six, and others for two years or less. The evaluation will result in [a feeling] of thankfulness and correction of shortcomings. Therefore, the yard stick shall be the advice of the [late] imam from the start [to the time of his death] and guidance of the exalted leadership after the imam's passing and, [also], the pledge of allegiance to the Constitution and gaining the favor of the Almighty. [Koranic verse in Arabic]

He then pointed out that in these times obedience to the exalted leadership is none other than manifestation of the continuation of the path of the [late] imam. [Arabic verse] He said: During the first decade after the victory [of the revolution] we saw enough fascinating events and sensitive ups and downs for centuries. Indeed, these waves and ups and downs were educational, constructive, informative, and alerting. Now, in the second decade—which is the decade of construction—we must benefit from past experiences. Our Islamic motherland, thanks to God, needs rich resources and facilities, and a much skilled and semi-skilled work force. It has many planned and half finished projects and plans. It only needs propaganda, encouragement, guidance, support, supervision, guarantee, and resolution and requires effort and unanimity. If the culture of hard work and perseverance prevails, if all [of us] think about work and endeavors and [consider] planting and eating instead of buying and eating, if we exercise cooperation and unanimity, if we combine slogans with actions and include knowledge in action and if we avoid repetition of [learning] what has [already] been learned surely we will succeed in the task of construction as we did in the Islamic revolution. How beautiful it would be if we considered work and effort as prayer and idleness as sin! How satisfying it would be if today our growth in production as well as in quality is better than yesterday! How appropriate if the Voice and Vision, media, Friday prayer sermons, speeches, seminars, conferences, and researches are conducted based on the principal of construction within the frameworks of behavior, balance, understanding, work, action, and self-sufficiency. Construction, from self-control to the jihad fronts, requires strong will and resolution, care and calculation, avoidance of knowledge without action, and splendid slogans with bad deeds, action without plan, efforts without stop, looking for others' faults while ignoring your own. How repulsive it is when deed is contrary to knowledge, words are contrary to ideas and action, in contradiction of words, is the guide to the left and the deed to the right. Slogans of supporting the deprived in conjunction with fancy cars, big houses, entertaining, lavish weddings, travels, deposits, socializing, and companies are in fact divisive and delude the people. The people are obligated to compare the words of everyone with his deeds and his knowledge with his acts. History has and will disgrace those who advocate division.

The Almighty God will, in due time, push aside these curtains as He has done so in the past.

Mr. Akrami then referred to the arrest of a number of treacherous liberal nationalists and said: These days have coincided with the arrest of a number of people who used to feast at the table of the revolution, were given responsibilities, chairs, desks, titles, pens, podiums, budgets, and found widespread support but slapped the face of the proprietors of the revolution. They stung and created apprehension, worry, disappointment, and helplessness. They objected rather than criticize and wrote that, "One hundred regrets that in the 12th spring of the Revolution the place of freedom, satisfaction, and salvation is empty. Economically and politically we are dependent and subservient more than ever before. We are struggling in a turmoil of hardship and displeasure. The country and nation have come to the edge of the frightening abyss of destruction and annihilation." If this is so, then why do the masters of you signatories, the world-monger America and the old colonialist England, send intermediaries, signal the green light, and express interest, or even insist, on opening the lines of communication?! Then, why does the damned Saddam [Husayn] requests direct negotiations, send letters, and condemn what has been going on?! [as published] Then, how come they sign million and billion [dollar] contracts and each week a delegation arrives here to exchange agreements for construction of dams, power plants, the defense capability, and large factories?! You used to assert that we should sell the F-14 [planes] and your friend Bakhtiar nullified the strategic agreements. You used to question why we were not thinking about strengthening our defenses and now that we are doing so you claim that we are at a dead-end and on the edge of an abyss?! You who have an inferiority complex! You culpable bankrupts, continue to write and let the BBC and the [Voice of] America broadcast [what you say]. Repeat your assertions that there is oppression and monopoly. It has been the spontaneous reactions of these people, for whom you claim to speak, that they have expressed their views in connection with the most fundamental issues of the country more than 12 times in the past 12 years. They spent 96 months in the fronts of the holy defense and put up with bombs and missiles. They were present to welcome the [late] imam and when he passed. [Where were the stingers, spectators, and the wealthy?] Even if this were the time of the Prophet (God's blessing upon him) or 'Ali (God's peace upon him), you would still have these wrong doings and deviations. These are clear examples of...[Arabic and Koranic verses]. I insist that the Islamic Revolution Magistrate of Tehran deal with these connivers, liars, and agents of the world-monger America in a befitting legal and judicial manner.

The deputy from Semnan then pointed out to the problems of his his constituency and said:

1. The condition of the drinking water of the city of Semnan is not suitable. I ask the Ministry of Energy to act appropriately to solve the problem and [take corrective steps regarding] the administration of the provincial water office.

2. The Plan and Budget Organization and the Ministry of Energy should launch a study and construction of the Khatirku dam before it is too late.

3. [The construction of] a gas distribution [pipeline] should have been implemented in Semnan in the year 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986]. Now that it has reached Garmsar, we ask the National Gas Company to continue its construction and do not keep our people waiting any longer.

Mr. Ha'erizadeh: Informative criticism and scientific analysis of Dr. Shari'ati is very necessary today.

Mr. Ha'erizadeh, the representative of the people of Birjand, was the second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of Islamic Consultative Majles. In his speech, while glorifying the memory of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, the memory of the dear martyrs of the month of Khordad [22 May-21 June] and the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Beheshti and 72 of his loyal comrades and martyr Mohammad Montazeri, he condemned the treachery of Turkey against Islam, distribution of the film and disrespect to the sacred memory of the [late] imam.

He then pointed out the clarity of the late imam's message on 22 February 1989 to the clergy and sources of emulation and said: His eminence the imam (may his soul be in heaven) in a part of his message on 22 February 1989 addressed to the sources [of emulation] and the clergies of the theological centers, said: There is no doubt that the theological centers and the various religious authorities have been the strongest bastion of Islam during the course of the history of Islam and Shi'ism against attacks and deviations. The great learned men of Islam during all their lives tried to clarify the spiritual matters of right and wrong without any interference. The imam said: If it were not for the dear jurists, it is not clear what would have been fed to the people as the science of Koran, Islam, and the holy family [of the Prophet]. So glorified is this month and how valuable and beautiful are these statements. On the occasion of the first anniversary of the imam's death, in the message marking the month of Khordad [22 May-21 June], our dear exalted leader Ayatollah Khamene'i in his 31 May message said: In the school of revolution, which was set up by our imam, the stands of the Sofianist [uncle of the Prophet who opposed him at first and after the fall of Mecca to the Moslem army accepted Islam and is much despised by Shi'ite Moslems] Islam, Marvani [another Caliph despised by Shi'ite Moslems], Islam of empty rituals, Islam subservient to gold and power and, in short, Islam as a tool of powers and a pariah to the lives of Moslems was eradicated for good. In its place, Islam of the Koran and Mohammad (God's blessing be upon him), Islam of jihad, Islam of ideas and struggles, Islam which ended tyranny and aided the innocent, Islam which fought Pharaohs and Qaruns [a biblical character known to be a notorious money exchanger and user] and, in short, the Islam which smashed despots and established [the rule of] downtrodden has risen. In the Islamic revolution, the Islam of the book and tradition has replaced the Islam of superstition. The initiation of the Islam of jihad and martyrdom has pushed aside the Islam of bondage and desperation. The Islam of worship and thoughts have replaced the Islam of ignorance. The Islam of the book of the day of judgment has replaced the Islam of worldly pleasure and monasticism. The Islam of science and knowledge has replace the Islam of petrification and neglect. The Islam of religion and politics have replace the Islam of indifference and effrontery. The Islam of revolution and action has replace the Islam of depression and dejection. The Islam of individual and society has replace the Islam of uselessness and protocols. The Islam which is the savior of the deprived has replaced the Islam which is a toy in the hands of the powers. In short, the American Islam has been replaced by the pure Muhammaden Islam.

In regard to the alert clergy, his eminence the imam said: It has been a hundred years since the spirituality of Islam has been the pillar supporting the deprived, and always the downtrodden have quenched their thirst [for knowledge] from the teachings of the great jurists. In regard to the alert leadership of Islam, Dr. 'Ali Shari'ati says: The Shi'ite spirituality which is the prophet-like inheritor of the religion of leadership and civilization, the double-edged sword of knowledge and freedom, the equality incarnate, the absolute revolutionary, the fiery spirit, the storm of jihad, the cleansing blood, the glowing sun of martyrdom, the agent of the Book, the iron scale, the carrier of the banner of uprising of monotheism against satanism, responsible for turning every month into Moharram [first month of the Islamic calendar], every day into Ashura [10th day of Moharram], turning every land into Karbala and the cause for greatness of right and the downfall of evil (collection of [Shari'ati's] works, p 27).

In another part Shari'ati says: The Shi'ite society and the clergy society has never been void of movements and revolution. Shari'ati believes that this issue shall continue as a deep and extensive trend in line with the intellectual edict of the [theological] center. There must be faith in the teachings, memory, and thoughts of the imam which is deepening day by day.

Mr. Ha'erizadeh then pointed out: Informative criticism and scientific analysis of Dr. Shari'ati's work is very necessary today. Like all other scientists and learned men, Shari'ati's work is not without faults. He should not be idolized although dragging him [his name] into dirt is treachery. Shari'ati has served the Islamic revolution numerously. [Persian poem]

It is a fact that Shari'ati's work is presently being tried and propagated in Islamic countries and the West. Among researchers and objective historians of the world, whenever there has been mention of characters instrumental in the Islamic movement, Shari'ati's name has had a shining effect. It is appropriate that, under the supervision of scholars and distinguished faculties of [theological] centers and universities, a collection of Dr. Shari'ati's valuable work, and in some instances with analysis and scientific and objective reasoning, be made available to the youth inside and outside the country. The works of that ever-living man are constantly being translated and published in Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, and Europe. These works and translations must be utilized in the service of Islam and in line with the teachings of the [late] imam along with the views of intellectuals from the [theological] center and universities. Some must not be published. On the other hand it is sad that no attention is paid to the shrine of such great teacher to a point that a foreign personality from an Islamic country expresses willingness to build a suitable building and, God forbid, cause a political or social exploitation which will have a negative effect on the valuable character of Shari'ati.

In conclusion, he criticized the Voice and Vision and said: I have a complaint about the Voice and Vision for not placing adequate value on Shari'ati and his 30 years of service to Islam as much as a soccer match between the teams of two communist countries. Instead, there was a [mere] 30 minute program which concentrated on a bunch of secondary issues.

Remarks by the Shiraz deputy

The third pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Dr. Qasem Sho'leh-S'adi who in the beginning recited a poem made by himself in holding dear the memory of Dr. Shari'ati.

In connection with Dr. Shari'ati he said: All know that the banner of the struggle from the time of Seyyed Jamal to the spirit of God [Ruhollah Khomeyni] was passed on to the teacher at a time when the Satanic regime [of the shah] was armed to the teeth. All pens [writers] were slaves of gold, threatened by force and spinning lies. Many people were either infatuated by the culture or were corrupted by the West. The radius of their sensitivity never went past the type of clothes they wore. They were so lost in pleasure, the pleasure of jazz music, that they could not hear the innocent cries of the Islamic nation. If they had the slightest inclination to fight the despotic regime, it was mostly under the influence of materialistic standards than the school of monotheism. In fact, one of the established standards of intellectualism was condemnation of religion. Naturally, under such circumstances Islam was not considered in intellectual centers. He brought Islam into the bosom of the universities and dragged the youth from the Youth Centers to the Mosques and religious centers. In the days when the lackeys of the regime of Satan, the followers of the culture of western bourgeoisie and those mesmerized by eastern materialism had reached a consensus against the school of monotheism, he who conveyed the message cries of the spirit of God [Ruhollah Khomeyni], was being attacked by some who should had been supporting him. He believed in this jihad so much that he denied them pleasure of hearing a single sigh [of pain] from him. It was the realization of [Koranic verse] "Those who help God will be helped and their steps will be affirmed." When he realized that the Islamic identity of this nation has been plundered he returned to himself and revealed his true self.

Criticism of the Baft deputy regarding the replacement of the President of the Kerman Medical Sciences University

Mr. Yadollah Eslami, the representative of the people of Baft, was the last pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. In regard to the passing of his eminence the imam (may he rest in heaven) said:

Although I have a short time to speak but the weight of the loss of the imam and sadness of the ascension of that holy man and flames of a pain that burns into my heart prompts me to begin my speech with his name and addressed to him. Imam! You the most valuable gift of God to mankind in this century! You who dragged the heavy weight of guiding the innocent man! You the selfless who never forgot the presence of God and being at his service! You were the manifestation of the wishes and needs of the deprived and the oppressed throughout history. You spoke of Islam. Under attack of the petrified and holy-pretenders and [faced with] the trickeries of the hypocrites [the Mojahedin-Khalq], you eradicated the lies, revealed deviations and shortcomings. You broke the magic of sorcerers with the magic of the word of God. You attacked American Islam with anger and fury and tore the curtains of deceit behind which the painless rich and Godless capitalists were hiding. The drum of shame of welfare-seekers was sounded by you. You taught the pure Muhammadan Islam to those who had a thirst for truth. You always spoke about the barefoot, the oppressed, and those who have always been the subject of anger of despots. You are the manifestation of the pure Muhammadan Islam. Your invitation to steadfastness, your resistance in confronting the events, your strength in confronting tyrants, and your humbleness before slum-dwellers have been the greatest lessons for world revolutionaries. By suggesting the war of poverty against richness, you emphasized on the Islamic revolution's eradication of heresy and fighting poverty. Your simple house reminded all of the muddy hut of 'Ali and Fatemeh (may God's peace be upon them). The house which was the Ka'abah [house of God in Mecca] of loving hearts. The light of knowledge emanating from your house called the whole world to movement and activity. Now that you are not here, your word through which freedom glitters is with us. We continue to emphasize on the continuation of your way.

Then, in regard to the elimination of dedicated forces from the executive organizations [he] said: The escalating trend of eliminating dedicated forces from decision-making and planning levels in some ministries is worrisome. Not only the standards of piety and jihad for God, but also the capability and expertise of such forces are being ignored. I am forced to mention here the right of capable, expert, and dedicated forces which are being eliminated from executive levels of the Ministry of Health and Treatment and the spread of such practices to universities across the country. For example, I shall mention about the dealing with the president of the Medical Sciences University of Kerman to which I look upon with worry and suspicion. The president of this university enjoyed several years of experience in teaching, planning, and management at Martyr Bahonar and the Medical Sciences of Kerman Universities. It was even acknowledged by Dr. Fazel and executives of the Ministry [of Health] that he was one of the successful figures in the medical sciences universities. Executives of the ministry acknowledge that in absorbing foreign exchange and domestic credits, expansion of training sections, bringing together the possibilities for new specialized training sections, procurement of training facilities, and suitable evaluation of noticeable growth had placed the Medical Sciences University of Kerman in the same category with the best universities in the country. Now the question is, what is the basis for dismissal of a person with years of management experience and whose successes have been recognized by ministry officials? In this regard, I refer to the letter dated 2 May 1990 from Dr. Malekzadeh, the deputy for training, to Dr. Fazel, minister of health and treatment. He states his appreciation of the services of the president of the Medical Sciences University of Kerman and expresses the ministry's support of his activities. Another point worthy of mentioning is that, it is naturally expected that in the meeting of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, chaired by the esteemed president, there should be adequate investigation of appointments and dismissals. At least, reasons for dismissals can be made clear and must be adequate. It should not be based on a report that is not confirmed by even the minister of health and treatment. Without any desire to express positive or negative views regarding the replacement in the Kerman university, I cannot ignore the point that having access to minimum information by the Council in regard to every appointment is necessary and one cannot mull over this casually. I hope these points are noticed by the respected members of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, which bear a heavy burden of responsibility.

Then, in regard to Dr. Shari'ati he said: Much has been said about Dr. Shari'ati. Some have praised him to the point of appreciation and some have attempted to accuse him of heresy. Some have considered him an expert in Islam who recognized pain, and some considered him under the influence of the West. Some wrote about his important role in the rejuvenation of the intellectual life of Islam among the youth and the intellectual crowd.

Some have considered him to be a deviationist and under the influence of Louis Masiun [? as published] Zionism. Aside all of these, one should search for Shari‘ati in the time and period to which he belonged and among his own generation. With his understanding of Islamic teachings and recognition of current schools and thoughts and social psychology, he formed a beautiful bond between Islam and the youth who had cut away from the teachings [of Islam] with his attractive and clear-sighted expression. He was a pain-familiar intellectual who had not a moment of rest.

His sociological approach in Islamic teachings was the key to his immense success in presentation of his his thoughts and introduction of the searching and thirsty generation. This does not mean that he did not have any faults.

While pointing out the absence of Iranian pilgrims from the hajj of Ibrahim, he said: Since we are at the onset of hajj pilgrimage in which Iranian pilgrims are going to be absent, we curse and damn the usurper of the holy shrines. May the house of Sa‘ud face shame and execration for breaking the respect of the Ka‘abah and the massacre of participants of the hajj of Ibrahim with the sword of animosity. In the memory of the distant hajj and the sacrificed of the house of God, I shall quote from Shari‘ati's passages.

The 10th of Zihajjeh [Islamic month] I reached to the position of Ibrahim. I achieved the power of Isma‘il's generosity. I smashed the last base of Satan during the first attack on the first day. I made sacrifice and then came out of the holy shrine. The victorious battle had ended and celebrations began. Then, why war after victory? Why pain after the fall of the last bastion of the enemy? This is the pain! Do not discount the coming to life of the lifeless Satan. Do not be neglectful since the revolution may be in danger of destruction by the anti-revolution, even after victory. In the heat of neglect while celebrating, the smashed snakes may come back to life, change color, put on masks of friendship and implode. They usurp all hands of the revolution, become inheritors of all crusaders and undertakers of martyrs. Do not put the weapon down for, if you repel the Satan from the door, it will come back through the window. If you smash it outside, it will come to life inside. If you weaken it in war, it will strengthen itself in peace. If you destroy it in yourself, it destroys the self. What can I tell you?! Seduction has a thousand masks. If you reveal it in the black shroud of heresy, it appears in green [the color of Islam] cloth. If you want to display it with the mask of heresy, it appears with the mask of monotheism. If you destroy the house of idols around him, he will take residence in the pulpit of a mosque. If you take its blood life in Badr [the first military campaign of the Prophet] it takes revenge in Karbala [where the grandson of the prophet was killed]. If it suffers a blow in the trenches of Medina, it will return the blow in the Mosque of Kufa [where ‘Ali was assassinated]. If you take away the idol Hobl [a pre-Islamic idol in the Arabian Peninsula] it will raise the God's Koran in Saffeyn [a campaign of the civil war after the death of the Prophet]. And how simple minded a crusader you'll be if you think that on the 10th of Zihajjeh, with smashing the base of the enemy in victory, the work is done.

You have taken off the armor of war and put on the silk of peace and are celebrating the thought that the danger is over. Can you really leave the scene of Mena [in Mecca], return home and get in the routine of life? You Ebrahimite crusader! Do not forget that the 10th of Zihajjeh is the Id-e Qorban [the feast of sacrifice].

Deputies' Memos To the Country's Executive Officials

- Mr. Qomi, Varamin deputy:

To the Agriculture Ministry, provision of agricultural equipment and spare parts needed by Varamin farmers. To the minister of reconstruction jihad, providing fertilizer needed by Varamin farmers. To the Agriculture Ministry, lifting the daily limits on the number of trucks carrying greens to Tehran.

Mr. Hemmati, Meshkin-Shahr deputy:

To the Energy Ministry, solving the drinking water shortage of Eslam-Shahr of Tehran.

Mr. Khodakaram Jalali, Firuzabad deputy:

To the Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health, Treatment, and Medical Education: review the determination of educational regions of Firuzabad city region and turning it into Region Three. To the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education: Completion of water distribution projects for villages of Firuzabad city region.

Mr. Mohaqqar, Bojnurd deputy:

To the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Commerce, Interior, and Information, Creation of Customs post in Geyfan and Gholaman of Bojnurd.

Messrs. Shahidi, Mahallat deputy; Movahhedi-Savoji, Saveh deputy; and Heydari, Tafresh deputy:

To the Judiciary, the Ministries of Interior and Information, Speedy investigation and decisive action regarding the attempt to assassinate the Director General of Education and Training of Central province while inspecting examination centers in the city region of Mahallat.

*ETTELA‘AT Report

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20 Jun 90 p 11

[Excerpt]

Majles Discussions

Investigation of Article 4 of the bill to integrate the Gendarmerie, the Komiteh, and the Police and form the Law-Enforcements Guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran was concluded during yesterday's open session of the Majles. After the passing of Article 6 suggested by the joint commission, Article 6 of this bill was passed without any changes.

The full text of Article 4 and Articles 5 and 6 are as follows: (It must be noted that Paragraphs 1 through 24 of Article Four were printed in previous issues of ETTELA'AT.)

Article 4: The duties and responsibilities of the Law-enforcement Guards of the Islamic Revolution of Iran are as follows:

1. Establishing order and security and ensuring public and individual tranquillity.

2. Confrontation and decisive struggle against any act of sabotage, terrorism, revolt, and elements and moves aiming to disrupt the security of the country and acting against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in cooperation with the Ministry of Information.

Note: The method of cooperation shall be determined by the National Security Council.

3. Providing security for holding gatherings, assemblies, demonstrations, and legal and permitted activities. Prevention of any unlawful assembly, demonstration, and gathering. Confronting any disturbance and unauthorized activities.

4. Act in order to collect intelligence within the framework of the assigned duties and cooperation with other national intelligence organizations and units within the framework of their duties.

Note 1: The responsibility of collecting information and intelligence regarding political and security issues and their intelligence follow up is with the Ministry of Information. In case the Law-Enforcement Force comes across any such information, it is obligated to collect the information and within the fastest possible time put them at the disposal of the Information Ministry. The said ministry is also obligated to put the information required by and in line with the duties of the Law-Enforcement Forces at its disposal.

Note 2: Intelligence follow up in regard to those social crimes which concern the national security or are a part of a conspiracy or hidden activities aimed at the overthrow of the regime shall be coordinated by the Information Ministry and implemented by the Law-Enforcement Forces.

Note 3: The Law-Enforcement Forces are obligated to provide to the Information Ministry the requested personnel needed for intelligence operations (gathering information) and place them under direct operational command of the ministry. The framework of cooperation and method of allocating the required personnel shall be in accordance with a guideline which will be approved by the National Security Council.

5. Safeguarding non-military classified locations, installations, and facilities and protection of their boundaries.

6. Safeguarding officials and foreign and domestic personalities all across the country, except in barracks and military installations, in the framework of plans passed by the National Security Council.

7. Collection of unlawful weapons, ammunition, and equipment. Issuance of permits for keeping and carrying personal weapons. Supervision of maintenance and use of firearms in coordination with the Information Ministry and in accordance with plans approved by the National Security Council.

8. Conduct of responsibilities that are determined by law to be the responsibility of the Forces as bailiff of judicial branch such as:

a. Fighting narcotics.

b. Combat smuggling.

c. Combat corruption and immoralities.

d. Crime prevention.

e. Solving crimes.

f. Investigation and research.

g. Protection and maintenance of evidence of crime.

h. Arrest of accused and criminals and preventing their escape and hiding.

i. Execution and communication of judicial decrees.

9. Conduct of activities related to determining identity and scientific discovery of crimes.

10. Safeguarding and control of frontiers of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Implementation of boarder treaties and protocols, vindication of rights of the government and citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran in boarder regions and special maritime economic boundaries.

11. Execution of laws and regulations concerning passports (except diplomatic and service passports), arrival and residence of foreign nationals in coordination with the Information Ministry (in cases of foreign nationals under the diplomatic cover, with the coordination of Foreign Ministry).

12. Execution and implementation of traffic laws and the affairs related to safeguarding the road boundaries all across the country.

13. Implementation and execution of national draft laws and regulations.

14. Supervision of public locations and conduct of other activities related to the said locations in accordance with the existing regulations.

15. Cooperation with other armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran as needed and in accordance with orders.

Note: Law-Enforcement Guards can, in case of need and by coordinating with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corp, utilize the services of the Mobilization Resistance Forces.

16. Cooperation with the secretariat of international police (INTERPOL [International Criminal Police Organization]).

17. Cooperation with ministries, organizations, associations, public and government-owned companies, banks, and municipalities within the framework of relevant laws and regulations.

18. Cooperation with appropriate organizations for creation and expansion of necessary cultural facilities aimed at reducing crimes and misdemeanors and simplifying assigned tasks.

19. Conduct of relief and public assistance operations in situations of distress, in cooperation with appropriate sources.

20. Organizing, mobilizing and training law enforcement units in order to prepare them for undertaking the assigned tasks.

21. Conducting security and safeguard appropriate barracks and bases.

22 Providing air defense cover for installations and sensitive locations within the range of assigned anti-aircraft weapons in cooperation and operational control of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

23. Providing medical needs, personnel, and administration of relevant hospitals and clinics.

24. The responsibility for preparation of logistical requirements' plan and conduct of procurement and service activities has been delegated to the Law-Enforcement Forces by the General Command of the Armed Forces.

25. Continuous and constant endeavor to protect and safeguard the organization in the area of security.

26. Continuous and constant endeavor for complete implementation of Islamic culture and codes [of ethic] in the Law-Enforcement Forces.

Pakistan

Iranian Envoy Arrives in Islamabad 22 Jul

Carries President's Message

LD2207112690 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 22, IRNA—A senior Iranian official arrived here Sunday morning carrying a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his Pakistani counterpart Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Motaki was welcomed at the airport by Pakistani Acting Foreign Minister Tanvir Ahmad Khan. [title as received]

During his two-day stay here, Motaki will meet with the Pakistani president, the prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs.

Exchange of views over the forthcoming ministerial session of the Islamic Conference Organisation in Cairo as well as matters of mutual interest would be topic of the talks between the Iranian official and high-ranking Pakistani authorities.

Officials Urge Upgrade of Ties

LD2307090490 Tehran IRNA in English 0658 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 23, IRNA—Economic cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad, campaign against narcotics trafficking as well as Afghanistan and Kashmir issues were discussed in a meeting here between Iranian and Pakistani foreign ministries officials Sunday.

The visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in Charge of International Affairs Manuchehr Motaki and Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister for the Middle East Afzal Qadir also assessed that the recent visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Iran was a turning point in bilateral relations. Both sides also stressed that Tehran-Islamabad ties must be further upgraded.

The Iranian official arrived here Sunday morning to deliver President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to his Pakistani counterpart Ghulam Ishaq Khan on the forthcoming ministerial session of the Islamic Conference Organization in Cairo.

Delivers Message to Ishaq Khan

BK2307104890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The Iranian special envoy, Mr. Manuchehr Motaki, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad this morning and conveyed a special message from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The problems faced by the Muslim community, and regional and bilateral issues were discussed during the meeting. The Iranian special envoy expressed concern over the plight of the Kashmiri Muslims and the atrocities unleashed on them. On Afghanistan, he stressed the immediate need for a political solution acceptable to the Afghan people.

The president and the Iranian special envoy expressed satisfaction over the healthy relations between the two countries. Mr. Motaki thanked President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for Pakistan's assistance to overcome the damages caused by the devastating earthquake last month.

Message, Meeting Detailed

LD2307180890 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 23, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Motaki today met with the Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and handed him a message from his Iranian counterpart President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Bilateral relations and international issues were among issues discussed between the two sides. Stressing that Muslims should maintain their unity in the face of the enemies of the Islam, Motaki called for coordination among Islamic countries in regional and international conventions.

Ishaq Khan thanked Motaki for President Rafsanjani's message and emphasized on concerted efforts by Third World countries, Islamic states in particular, to create a power capable of affecting the decisions taken by the global powers. He added that the world powers in settling their own problems, also take some decisions for the Third World countries without these countries being informed of that.

The Pakistani president said Islamic ideology is now considered as an effective and important weapon in the world thanks to the hard efforts of the late Imam Khomeyni, adding that world powers were therefore trying to challenge it.

Meets Deputy Foreign Minister

LD2307221590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Our country's [Iran's] deputy foreign minister for international affairs [Manuchehr Motaki], in continuation of his meetings with Pakistani government officials, today conducted his second round of talks with the deputy foreign minister of Pakistan. According to the Central News Unit, ways of solving the Kashmir issue and related problems, the question of Afghanistan, and regional and international developments were discussed. The two sides emphasized the role of the people of Afghanistan in determining their own destiny and the need for unity among Afghan groups.

Mr. Motaki briefed his counterpart on the latest peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq, and said the Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of the positive climate that has been created, hopes that the speedy implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution No.598 will achieve a long-lassting peace in the region.

Pakistan's deputy foreign minister expressed his pleasure at the latest developments in the peace talks, and called for a speedy implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 598.

Voluntary Return of Afghan Refugees Begins 28 Jul

BK2407144990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The voluntary return of Afghan refugees begins on Saturday [28 July]. Elaborate arrangements have been made with the cooperation of government and UN agencies, especially the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Nine exit points in the North-West Frontier Province and Balochistan have been selected for this purpose. They are Loralai, Pishin, Darbandin, Wana, Miram Shah, Tor Khan, Khar, Chitral, and Parachinar. The returning refugees passing through any of these points will be given 3,300 rupees as family transportation and initial resettlement costs. In addition, they will receive food assistance. The refugees who voluntarily avail themselves of this offer will be required to surrender their ration cards. The government has agreed to allow them to carry all their household goods and personal belongings. The UN High Commission for Refugees is working on a coordinated policy in Afghanistan for the refugees' rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Editorial Assesses Afghan Peace Proposals

BK1807120990 Lahore THE NATION in English 18 Jul 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Breaking Afghanistan Stalemate"]

[Text] Kabul regime's President Najibullah has said in an interview with BBC that he was ready to forego some of his powers for the restoration of peace in the country. Those powers, he said, could be transferred to a council of representatives of all the recognised Afghan political parties. In other words he would become the President of all of Afghanistan, as against his present position of being the ruler of a few cities, his party (the PDPA) would have a voice in the 'Council' and he would presumably retain the command of the Armed Forces. These [are the] kinds of offers he has been making since the departure of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and these have always been rejected by the mujahidin and the US. The Soviet Union on the other hand has stood by its protege and has continued to back him with roughly 300 million dollars a month. The failure of the mujahidin to dislodge Najib and the failure of Najib to expand his rules beyond a few city fortresses has, however, led both the US and the Soviet Union to review their positions. And this is where the new Soviet initiative comes in. Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet Ambassador to the UN, has suggested, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES, that Najibullah should be allowed to remain the symbolic head of government and all powers, including the control of the Army, be transferred to a neutral election commission, which should hold elections and transfer power to the elected parliament, etc.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, the US seems interested. Even in the Baker Plan, some sort of a transitional role for Najib had been accepted. The only hurdle then was that neither the Soviet Union nor the mujahidin were willing to look at it. The difference now is that the two superpowers seem willing to compromise. The snag nevertheless could be that neither Najib nor the mujahidin may find it acceptable. The option to the superpowers would then be to use their clout with their respective proteges and try to bring them in line, and if they balk to abandon them to their fate. The result then would be utter chaos. Pakistan can, in collaboration with the UN, however, prevent such a calamity, it is starts thinking actively about it right now.

Sri Lanka

'At Least 108' Dead in Fighting in Northeast

BK2307131690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 23 (AFP)—Fierce fighting in northeastern Sri Lanka has left at least 108 people dead as a major Army operation continued against guerillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). According to details provided in an official communique late Monday [23 July], 94 of those killed were LTTE guerrillas while 11 soldiers also died.

The communique describing the situation in the 24 hours ending 12 noon (0630 GMT) Monday said three Muslim civilians were also among the casualties.

LTTE Says Air Force Dropping Cholera Bombs

BK2407051290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0500 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 24 (AFP)—A Tamil guerrilla group fighting government troops in Sri Lanka has accused the Air Force of dropping biological bombs on the northern city of Jaffna, a known rebel stronghold.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) alleged in a statement received here Tuesday that the Air Force's Avro aircraft dropped "a more lethal cholera bomb on the heavily populated Jaffna City on Friday [20 July]."

"A team of research doctors attached to the Jaffna Medical College examined this bomb, expressed their anguish and confirmed that the bomb was packed with cholera bacterium," the statement, issued by the group's London office, said. It said that people infected with cholera face immediate death if not treated properly and that those affected could also act as carriers.

"There is a danger that cholera bacterium could spread fast to the heavily populated Jaffna Peninsula, where there is no adequate water purification system and no proper sewage disposal system." The statement said the population has been warned to look for the "cholera bombs" and to immediately contact the Jaffna Medical College "if any more suspicious bombs are found."

A spokesman for the Air Force here vehemently denied the charges.

The LTTE has also alleged that the Air Force conducted indiscriminate bombing operations on Jaffna on Saturday and Sunday.

"Indiscriminate aerial bombing started at about 7:30 p.m. after dark in which more than three Sri Lankan planes took part," the LTTE said, adding that the bombing had "severely damaged" the Jaffna General Hospital.

Colombo has said that Air Force planes have been conducting operations to relieve the LTTE's siege on army camps in the northern province, large parts of which are rebel-controlled.

The camps, including the main garrison at the ancient Jaffna Fort, have been besieged since June 11 shortly after the LTTE relaunched their campaign for a separate Tamil homeland in the northeast. [passage omitted]

Government Troops End Siege on Army Camp

BK2407105890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 24 (AFP)—Government troops fighting Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka ended a siege on an Army camp and ran through a rebel-held area as 12 soldiers died in fresh violence, military officials said Tuesday.

Guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fought a pitched battle with soldiers who began to move out of the northern Elephant Pass camp from Sunday [22 July], a military spokesman here said. He said that with the siege on Elephant Pass effectively ended on Monday [23 July], an Army offensive on the same day smashed through the rebel-controlled Paranthan area a few kilometers (miles) south.

The spokesman could not confirm LTTE casualties but said four soldiers were killed and another injured in heavy fighting late Monday in Paranthan, adding the Army had begun consolidating the area by early Tuesday. Paranthan, dotted with salt fields, is in the northern Kilinochchi District, which is under an indefinite curfew imposed by Colombo early Monday.

The Army camps of Kilinochchi, Jaffna Fort and Kankesanthurai in the north continued to be under rebel siege with the LTTE guerrillas firing mortars and rockets into the Army positions, the spokesman said.

The LTTE laid siege to the military stations on June 11 shortly after renewing its campaign for a separate state called Eelam in the predominantly Tamil northeast.

Military officials here said the military operation in the Kilinochchi District was strengthened when more troops dropped by helicopters in Paranthan linked up with soldiers from the Elephant Pass camp.

"We hope to secure Kilinochchi by this evening," the spokesman said Tuesday.

The LTTE said in a statement received here Tuesday from its London office that troops from the Elephant Pass Army camp were thwarted from their advance towards Kilinochchi by guerrillas who "launched a heavy attack."

"LTTE cadres are now confronting these columns close to Paranthan," the statement said.

The offensive in the north came as the separatist guerrillas ambushed and killed seven soldiers in eastern Trincomalee district late Monday. The spokesman said another soldier was injured in the ambush but could not confirm whether the LTTE had suffered any casualties, adding the guerrillas had fled with six T-56 rifles and hand grenades carried by the soldiers. Rebels also killed a soldier in eastern Batticaloa District, the spokesman added.

More than 2,050 people including many civilians are reported to have died in six weeks of fighting between government troops and the LTTE, forcing thousands of others to flee the northeast. [passage omitted]

Delegation Head Outlines Outcome of India Visit

BK2307113290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0915 GMT 23 Jul 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 July (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lankan delegation was convinced of the Indian Government's genuine stance of neutrality on the current conflict, a policy endorsed by all political parties in that country, said the speaker of Sri Lanka's Parliament and leader of the delegation M.H. Mohamed at a press briefing today.

He told newsmen that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had lost sympathy of all the political parties of India.

He said that the Sri Lankan parliamentary delegation had informed all groups it had interacted with that it greatly appreciated the very clear statement of policy made by the Indian prime minister which included that India stood by unity, integrity, and sovereignty of Sri Lanka.

He said the objective of the visit was to create an understanding among parliamentarians and political leaders in India about the current situation in Sri Lanka and to provide for a continuing dialogue between the parliaments of the two countries. It was deemed vital that government leaders and leaders of major political parties in India obtained a correct understanding of the real situation in the country. The dialogue between the political parties of the two countries, it was expected would provide an opportunity to present the facts and clear misunderstandings and incorrect perceptions.

During the four days they spent in New Delhi, the delegation was able to meet Shri [Mr.] (Dr.) Shankar Dayal Sharma, Vice President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha of India; Shri V.P. Singh, Prime minister; Shri Rabi Ray, Speaker of the Lok Sabha; Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Leader of the opposition; Shri I.K. Gujral, Minister of External Affairs; Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy, Minister of Petroleum; Shri P. Upendra, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Information and Broadcasting; Shri Dinesh Goswami, Minister of Law; Shri Murasoli Maran, Minister of Urban Development and several state officials.

Among the political parties with which the parliamentary delegation had discussions were, the Communist Party of India led by Shri Indrajit Gupta, the Communist Party of India-Marxist led by Shri E.M.S. Namboodaripad, the Congress-I led by Shri P. Shiv Shanker, the National Front group led by Shri P. Upendra, the Bharatiya Janata Party led by Shri A.B. Vajpayee.

The parliamentary delegation also met a large group of academics and writers in a round table discussion and held a press conference which was attended by leading media personalities.

The Sri Lankan parliamentary delegation was received with great cordiality at all places and the interaction with Indian officials and groups were extremely valuable and meaningful in increasing awareness of each other's concerns.

The parliamentary delegation in the course of their discussions highlighted the following issues and concerns on which there was a broad consensus:

"The fact that all political parties agreed on the need for action to restore law and order and civil authority in the north and east of the country".

"That all political parties in Sri Lanka were in agreement that the final resolution of the current crisis must be a political one within the democratic framework".

"That all agreed that the military option which was proceeding was not one against the Tamil community but against the LTTE as an armed group which was committed to secessionism".

"That the public statements made by political parties in regard to the present conflict had ensured no ethnic backlash as had occurred on previous occasions".

"That the settlement of the ethnic problem, which is an ongoing process, must build on the foundations already established".

"That Indian soil should not be allowed to be used for any clandestine activity by any armed groups against Sri Lanka".

The Sri Lankan parliamentary delegation also informed all groups it had interacted with that it greatly appreciated the very clear statement of policy made by the Indian Prime minister, this was to the effect that:

"India stood by the unity, integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka".

"India would not intervene in the internal affairs of its neighbours".

"India would not allow Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla groups to operate from or maintain bases on Indian soil".

The delegation was gratified to note that all political parties and individuals they met, completely supported this policy.

Through their intense interaction with the major Indian political parties, the Sri Lankan parliamentary delegation was able to obtain a clear understanding of India's concerns. These were broadly:

"Concern at the reported inflow of refugees from the conflict into Tamil Nadu and the level of civilian casualties".

"Concern at the possible involvement of third parties in the Sri Lanka conflict which could affect India's security".

"Concern and interest in seeing an early end to the conflict and the resolution of the ethnic problem through the provision of as much devolution as possible within the framework of the unitary constitution of Sri Lanka".

Several valuable insights regarding future areas of action were gained as a result of the interaction with the Indian political parties, groups, and individuals.

The Sri Lankan parliamentary delegation will be conveying its views and recommendations on these matters both to their parliamentary colleagues in the CPA [expansion unknown] and IPU [Interparliamentary Union] and to the government.

In view of the great contribution made to mutual understanding through the visit of the parliamentary delegation to India, Hon. Speaker on behalf of the Sri Lankan parliament extended an invitation to the speaker of the Indian Lok Sabha to visit Sri Lanka with a representative delegation of the political parties of India at an early date, so as to obtain for themselves an awareness and understanding of the reality in Sri Lanka. The invitation was accepted with much pleasure. It is hoped that this would lead to the working out of mechanisms which would enable a regular exchange of visits between members of the two parliaments. The speaker of the Lok Sabha agreed with the speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament that a continuing dialogue between the parliamentarians of the two countries would increase an awareness of each other's concerns and lead to a further strengthening of the cordial relations that so happily exist between India and Sri Lanka.